



## Using Block, Slab & Stone Splitters

1. Wear your protective equipment. Wear your gloves to position the material in the splitter.
2. Keep other persons away, safe from the danger of flying chips.
3. Keep your fingers and feet clear; do not get the trapped between the blades and material, especially if someone else is operating the splitter.
4. Place the block or slab in position for splitting, and then push down on the handle to bring the top blade down with enough force to split the block.
5. Check that the support rails (pads) are clean and free of debris after every block or slab that is split; chips of block or slab will prevent the next block from being split.
6. Do not try to split wood or metal with the equipment.
7. Do not attempt to relocate the block or slab being split while under pressure.
8. Do not try to split more than one slab or block at a time.
9. Move the split material away; keep your workplace free of clutter.
10. Stop work if someone approaches you.
11. If your equipment does not work properly, do not attempt to repair it. Contact the hire company.

Please keep this leaflet safely as it may be required for future reference

## Slab Cutter

The rules and procedures in force where people are at work may require the person responsible for this equipment to carry out a specific risk assessment.

It is important to read this entire leaflet BEFORE using the Slab Cutter

1. Even the smallest block splitters generate enormous pressure between the blades, and can be hazardous if misused.
2. Some block splitters are heavy and awkward to move – take care not to injure yourself or others.
3. Keep non-essential people, especially children away from work area. NEVER allow children to use this equipment.
4. Wear your protective equipment especially eye protection and safety boots. Wear your gloves to position the material in the splitter.
5. Read and follow the safety labels attached to the equipment, they are there to warn of hazards.
6. Do not indulge in any horseplay or irresponsible behaviour, while using, or working near the block splitter.
7. Keep your fingers away from the blade area, especially when loading heavy blocks, if you have a workmate operating the handle ensure you are both alert and co-ordinate your actions.
8. When a heavy slab or block is split the two halves will fall either side, each half is heavy enough to cause severe injury. Keep your feet out of the way.
9. Always leave the handle in the lower position in between cuts and when not in use. The blade cannot then be accidentally pushed down onto someone's finger.



(Continued overleaf...)



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**ADJUSTMENT AND OPERATION**

1. There are different methods of adjusting the gap between the blades depending on which model you have hired.
2. Lift the handle to open the gap between blades to its widest. Adjust the gap to be slightly larger than the thickness of the block or slab being cut to enable it to be positioned. Your model may have either one or two screw adjusters.
3. The gap only needs adjusting once to repeatedly split the slabs or blocks of the same thickness. Re-adjust the gap for thicker or thinner material.
4. Some heavy – duty models have a hydraulic jack to increase the splitting pressure.
5. The pressure control valve is usually at the base of the jack. Unscrew it one or two turns to allow the hydraulic pressure to allow the springs to retract the upper blade. Do not remove the pressure control valve completely.
6. Screw the control valve finger tight to close it. You can now adjust the gap to suit the material being cut. The threaded gap adjuster is usually part of the hydraulic jack.

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4. The larger models are stable in the upright position. They can be tilted. It is a heavy piece of equipment that will cause injury or damage if it falls over.
5. Make sure you understand how the equipment works – before you use the splitter you must be aware of the potential hazards present and what precautions to take



## Before Starting Work...

**PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT**

1. You must have at least the following items of personal protective equipment: Impact resistant goggles (EN166 – B or BS2092 grade 1) when you are working with this machine.
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3. You must wear safety boots (EN345 or BS1870/4972).
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5. Anybody who is working near to you will also need to wear appropriate personal protective equipment.

**WORK AREA**

1. Make sure that your work area is clear and safe and that no-one is near to you or could distract you.
2. Protect other people from injury. Warn others to keep away. Put barriers around your work area.

**OPERATORS**

1. The following items of personal protective equipment (ppe) are the minimum that should be worn whenever you use this equipment. Particular jobs or environments may require a higher level of protection.
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**BLOCK, SLAB AND STONE SPLITTER**

1. There is several modes and sizes of block and slab cutters including equipment for splitting stone. If the splitter you have is not producing the results you expect, it may be the incorrect equipment for the type of material you are using; check with the hire company.
2. Check your equipment including the blades and handle. Check that the screw adjustments turn freely. If anything is found damaged, do not use the splitter – contact the hire company.
3. Make sure the 'cutting' edges of the upper and lower blade are in good condition. Check that the support rails (or pads) for the block are securely mounted each either side of the lower blade.
4. The larger models are stable in the upright position. They can be tilted. It is a heavy piece of equipment that will cause injury or damage if it falls over.
5. Make sure you understand how the equipment works – before you use the splitter you must be aware of the potential hazards present and what precautions to take

**EQUIPMENT**

1. This equipment is designed for operation by an able bodied adult. Anyone with either temporary or permanent disability must seek expert advice before using it.
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**EQUIPMENT**

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