

Using the Reversible Petrol Plate Compactor

1. Wear your protective equipment including ear defenders and safety boots.
2. The centrifugal clutch on reversible compactors stops the plate vibrating while the engine is idling. The throttle should be set to maximum when working.
3. Always grip the plate compactor correctly with two hands while working.
4. Watch out for signs that vibration may be affecting your hands. If your fingers start to tingle or feel numb, take a short break from using the machine. Exercise your fingers to encourage blood circulation.
5. To help prevent vibration affecting your hands, operate the machine for shorter periods. Keep your hands warm – wearing gloves may help do this. Do not operate the compactor for more than the recommended daily time.
6. Always keep your hands, feet and any loose clothing away from moving parts of the compactor.
7. This machine will move forward or backwards, and can be maneuvered easily, while the plate is vibrating. Your machine may be too heavy to drag into position while the plate is not vibrating. Be careful not to strain yourself by trying to move it; get assistance or use appropriate lifting equipment.
8. When reversing, take care not to: reverse over your feet, trip over while walking backwards or trap yourself in a corner.
9. Some reversible plate compactors have a safety feature if the operator loses control and releases the handle when being used in reverse. The handle will swing up vertical and the compactor will change into forward motion, allowing the operator to recover control.
10. Do not try to force the compactor to move faster, allow it to travel at its own speed forward or reverse; this will vary depending on the surface being compacted.
11. If the surface to be compacted is sloping take great care and only work up and down the slope, never across it.
12. If necessary attach a suitable piece of rope to a low point on the compactor chassis to enable an assistant to take part of the compactor's weight.
13. When the compactor is not being operated, stop the engine and turn off the fuel valve.
14. If your compactor has transport wheels make sure they are fixed properly to move the machine across the site.
15. If you need to leave the compactor unattended for long periods, overnight for example, you must ensure it is safe from vandalism or theft.
16. 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



Reversible Petrol Plate Compactor

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 Reversible Petrol Plate Compactor

1. Plan your work and think ahead to make sure you will always be working safely.
2. Petrol is highly flammable. Take care not to cause a fire or explosion.
3. The vibration from these machines may cause discomfort after prolonged use. Total average daily use for this type of machine is approximately 2 ½ hours. Check the label on the machine, or ask the hire company.
4. If using this compactor on the public highway it may need to be HAUC compliant; check with the hire company.
5. This reversible compactor is designed to compact crushed hardcore, backfill, asphalt and other materials on level surfaces or gentle slopes.
6. This plate compactor is heavy, it can cause injury or damage if it is not handled at all times in a careful and controlled way.
7. If you have not used a reversible plate compactor before, you should receive instruction or guidance before you use it. Start your work in a safe area until you become familiar with its use.
8. You must have at least the following items of personal protective equipment: goggles: EN166 or BS2092; dust mask – a minimum of EN149:2001FFP3 protection; ear muffs or plugs giving protection for levels up to 105 dB(A); safety boots to EN345 or BS1870/4972; gloves.
9. This machine must not be used by minors or by anyone under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
10. This plate compactor is designed for operation by an able bodied adult.
11. Anyone with either temporary or permanent disability must seek expert advice before using it.



WORK AREA

1. Do not use this machine where there is a danger of explosion. It will ignite fumes from petrol, or gas cylinders.
2. Using this equipment indoors or in confined spaces could cause **fatal** carbon monoxide poisoning. **Never** use it in domestic premises and only use it in other indoor situations if its suitability and the ventilation required has been **fully** assessed. Mechanical extraction ventilation will almost always be required.
3. Make sure that the area is clear and safe and that no-one is near to you or could distract you.
4. Protect other people from the noise, debris and dust. Warn others to keep away, put a barrier around your work area.
5. The compacting action may damage underground pipes, cables or other services laid just beneath the surface.

OPERATORS

1. The following items of personal protective equipment (ppe) are the minimum that should be worn whenever you use this machine. Particular jobs or environments may require a higher level of protection.
2. You should wear goggles (EN166 or BS2092) when you are working with this machine.
3. This equipment is likely to cause noise levels up to 105 dB(A) – wear

Before Starting Work...



appropriate ear muffs or plugs giving hearing protection for this level as a minimum.

4. You will need to wear an appropriate dust mask (with a minimum of EN149:2001FFP3 protection) when you are compacting material that causes dust.
5. You must wear safety boots (EN345 or BS1870/4972).
6. Site regulations may require you to wear a safety helmet.
7. Anyone working near to you will also need to wear appropriate personal protective equipment.

PLATE COMPACTOR

1. This is a heavy machine. Get someone to help you when you are lifting it off a transport vehicle, and when you are moving it into position. Take care.
2. Check your machine, engine, and all equipment. Do not use anything found damaged – contact the hire company.
3. Vibration from using this plate compactor can be hazardous. Warm your hands up before you start work, and wear gloves to



keep your hands warm while you are working.

4. Make sure that you understand all of the controls. Before you start the machine, you must know how to stop it.

ACCESSORIES

1. Some or all of these accessories may be supplied as standard with your machine.
2. When compacting asphalt or tarmac, use a water spray to prevent the surface sticking to the plate.
3. Some surfaces, like paving blocks, need a rubber mat fixed to the plate to protect the final surface. Check with the hire company.
4. If your compactor has transport wheels make sure they are safely stowed, or removed, for work.

REFUELLING

1. No smoking.
2. Stop the engine and let it cool down.
3. If possible move the machine away from your work area.
4. Clean the filler cap and the area around it to prevent dirt falling into the fuel tank.

5. Use a funnel and clean petrol when refueling. Do not spill any fuel on yourself or the machine.
6. Wipe any fuel off the machine. Dispose of fuel soaked cloth carefully.
7. If you spill any fuel on the ground, wipe it up or cover it with soil.
8. If you spill any fuel on your clothes, change them straight away.
9. Put all fuel caps back on properly, and move your fuel can to a safe, cool place.

STARTING THE ENGINE

1. Check that the engine and machine controls are set correctly. The choke should be pulled out with a part throttle setting.
2. Make sure that you hold the machine firmly so it will not move when you pull the starter.
3. Pull the starter handle slowly until you can feel that the starter has engaged with the engine, then pull it quickly and strongly. Don't pull it too far, or the cord may break.
4. Guide the cord back into place so that it recoils correctly.
5. As soon as the engine has fired, adjust the throttle and choke to ensure an even running engine.
6. If starting a warm engine, do not use the choke.