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For guidance on managing construction health risks go to

www.hse.gov.uk/construction





# **Using the Power Float**

- 2.
- Protective equipment including ear defenders, dust mask, goggles and safety boots must be worn at all times. When starting the engine the float blade will not rotate until the clutch lever is pulled in on the right side of the handlebars. The blade will stop as soon as this lever is released. The throttle lever is on the left side of the handlebars. To get best results when trowelling, set the engine speed as fast as possible.
- 4. adjustment wheel is in the centre of the handlebars; use this to adjust the angle
- 5. With the engine running and the blades turning the power float can be moved easily, push
- down on the handle to move right and lift up on the handle to move left.
- Do not leave the power float in one position too long with the blades rotating or an uneven surface will be created.

  Stop the engine if leaving the machine unattended.

  The power float must be cleaned, especially the blades, as soon as work is finished before the power float must be cleaned. 6.

- The power float must be cleaned, especially the blades, as soon as which the concrete goes hard.

  Always store the power float in its upright position.

  If the equipment does not work properly do not attempt to repair it. Contact the hire company. You may want to read this leaflet again. Please keep it safely until you finish work.

### **GETTING GOOD RESULTS**

- Set the engine speed as fast as possible.

  Don't trowel too much. Excessive trowelling brings fine material to the surface. This makes the o firm and prone to cracking or dusti

#### FLOAT TROWELLING

- Float trowelling uses a float blade to produce a smooth finish which, if needed, can be fine trowelled afterwards.
- trowelled afterwards.

  Start float trowelling when concrete is hard enough for an average man to walk on it and leave only a shallow footprint (up to 3mm or 1/8" deep).

  Before starting, fill in any minor holes with fresh concrete.

  If suction mats have been used on the concrete, start float trowelling as soon as they are 2.

- The machine should be moved in wide sweeping movements so that it doesn't stay too long on the same area of concrete, causing holes.
   FINE TROWELLING

- Fine trowelling uses a finish blade to produce a fine surface.

  To check that concrete is ready for fine trowelling, press the palm of your hand against the surface. If concrete sticks to your hand, it's too soon to start work. As a rule, two passes of the machine are needed for fine trowelling. The angle of the blades
- On the first pass, set the blade at a slight angle to avoid putting the surface of the concrete
- under too much pressure. The second pass should be left for as long as possible, but before the concrete has set too















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#### ever, and turn the fuel tap off. To stop the engine, close the throttle engine warms up open the choke lever. throttle so the engine is idling. As the If the engine has started adjust the recoils correctly.

- Guide the cord back into place so that it strongly. Don't pull it too far, or it may
- the engine, then pull it quickly and can teel that the starter has engaged with 6. Pull the starter handle slowly until you will not move when the starter is pulled. Make sure the machine is held firmly so it Open the throttle control a little.
- Into the fuel tap on and close the choke
- Check the fuel and oil levels. follow the instructions below.
- instructions, follow them. Otherwise, If the hire company has supplied special

# STARTING THE ENGINE

- Put all fuel caps back on properly, and them straight away. If any fuel is spilt on clothes, change
- the ground, wipe it up or cover it with soil. If very small amounts of fuel are spilt on of fuel soaked cloth carefully. Wipe any fuel off the machine. Dispose
- yourself or the machine. refuelling. Do not spill any fuel on Ose a funnel and clean petrol when
- it to prevent dirt falling into the fuel tank. Clean the filler cap and the area around
- If possible move the machine away from Stop the engine and let it cool down. ио гшокіид.

REPUELLING

#### on the biades. Do not allow any cement mix to harden Always make sure the blades are clean.

Always replace all four blades.

remove and replace each blade in turn. each biade inside the guard ings, and hands, undo the wing nut on the top of gloves to keep the cement mix off your engine is stopped and safe. Wearing To change the blades, first ensure the

сотралу и уои гедиге аптегелг різдез. different finishes. Contact the hire 1. Different types of blades are available for

#### **SEADES** cement mix on it hardens.

power float is washed clean before any When the work is finished, make sure the

Retore starting the power float locate the 3. Find out how to switch the engine off.

Make sure the clamp is re-tightened. wering the top half of the handleb the handlebar stem, and raising or anit by undoing the clamp half way down Adjust the height of the handlebars to courser rue nire company.

damaged, do not use the power float equipment. If anything is found to be bower float and Check engine,

#### POWER FLOAT









# **Power Float**

may require the person responsible for this equipment to carry out a specific risk assessment

### It is important to read all of this leaflet **BEFORE** you use the Power Float

0124 Safety Guidance

- Plan your work and think ahead to make sure you will always be working safely..
- If you have not used this type of power float before, familiaris yourself with how the machine works before you start on the main task.
- Petrol is highly flammable. Take care not to cause a fire or
- Cement mixes are harmful to eyes, lungs and skin. Take precautions to prevent contact with cement mix.
- This power float is designed to machine-trowel large areas of fresh concrete surface to a smooth finish. It is not designed for any other purpose.
- The action of this power float can cause injury or damage if the machine is not used in a careful and controlled way.
- You must have at least the following items of personal protective equipment: goggles:; dust mask- a minimum of FFP3 protection; ear muffs or plugs giving protection for levels up to 87dB(A); Safety boots; industrial gloves.
- A personal first-aid kit should be available.
- This machine must not be used by young persons, or by anyone under the influence of drugs
- This power float is designed for operation by an able bodied adult. Anyone with either a temporary or permanent disability must seek expert advice before using it.
- wer floats are heavy machines, get help if you have to unload it from your vehicle. Do not lift beyond your own capabilities













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protective equipment. also need to wear identical personal Anybody who is working close by will

the mixes coming into contact with bare and full trousers must be worn to prevent

Industrial quality gloves, long sleeves Safety boots/wellingtons must be worn. material that causes dust. worn when you are in contact with

minimum of FFP3 protection) must be An appropriate dust mask (with a protection for this level as a minimum. ear muffs or plugs giving hearing levels up to 96 dB(A) - wear appropriate This equipment is likely to cause noise caugnt in the machinery.

loose or flapping clothing that could get level of protection. Ensure there is no or environments may require a higher this poker vibrator is used. Particular jobs minimum that should be worn whenever protective equipment (PPE) are the The following items of personal

## **SHOTARISO**

Clear the area of trip hazards e.g. rubble, excinsion zone assisting with the work, enter the anyone, other than those directly Work should stop immediately should

away when using this equipment.

used with physical barriers, barrier tape the area where the power float is being dust. Set up an exclusion zone around Protect other people from the noise and conia cause distractions. safe and that no-one is close by and

and signs, keep children and animals

Make sure the work area is clear and ventilation will almost always be

fully assessed. Mechanical extraction and the ventilation required has been other indoor situations if its suitability it in domestic premises and only use it in carbon monoxide poisoning. Mever use confined spaces could cause fatal Using this equipment indoors or in from petrol, or gas cylinders.

danger of explosion. It will ignite fumes Do not use this machine where there is a

# **WORK AREA**

ming into contact with bare skin. must be worn to prevent the mixes Gloves, long sleeves and full trousers dermatifis - visit www.bcds.org.uk medical advice. Learn more about contact

no further contact. If the rash persists seek Mild dermatitis will heal providing there is and seek medical advice without delay. skin immediately. Thoroughly rinse eyes

Wash cement or plaster mixes from your contact with the skin. usually itchy and causes flaky skin and only occurs where the substance is in

substances. The rash can vary but it is occur when the skin reacts to certa Contact dermatitis is a rash that may cause contact dermatitis.

Wet cement mix is a substance that can

**DERMATITIS** CEMENT MIXES AND CONTACT

Before Starting Work.

Useful Reference Points • www.hae.org.uk/businessguard