

Using the Floor Sander

1. Wear your protective equipment including ear defenders, dust mask and goggles.
2. Tilt the floor sander onto its back edge before switching it on.
3. Let the floor sander run up to full speed before lowering it carefully back onto the surface. Be prepared for the reactive force when the sanding sheet contacts the floor surface.
4. Keep the floor sander moving across the floor all the time it is running, do not let it stand still, it may cause grooves in the floor.
5. Let the weight of the floor sander do the work. Any extra pressure will overload the machine and may cause grooves in the floor.
6. Keep the cable clear do not let the machine run over it.
7. If you think the cable may be cut or damaged in any way, switch off and unplug at the socket before inspecting it. If the cable attached to the floor sander is damaged, stop using the machine. Contact the hire company. If an extension cable has been damaged, do not use it again.
8. Take care not to accidentally pull the plug from the socket.
9. 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. Find out more about vibration. **Ask the hire company for a copy of the HAE leaflet no. 2150 – Hand-arm vibration or visit www.hse.gov.uk/vibration**
10. To help prevent vibration affecting your hands, operate the machine for shorter periods. Keep your hands warm - wearing gloves may help do this.
11. Tilt the floor sander onto its back edge again before switching off and wait for it to stop completely before standing it on its base.
12. Make sure that any ventilation slots in the floor sander do not get blocked with sawdust.
13. Switch off and remove the plug from the socket before leaving the floor sander unattended.
14. If your equipment does not work properly do not attempt to repair it. Contact the hire company.
15. You may want to read this leaflet again. Please keep it until you finish work.

Floor Sander

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 all of this leaflet BEFORE you use the Floor Sander



1. Electricity is dangerous and must always be used with great care.
2. This floor sander is designed for levelling off large areas of floor and for cleaning and sanding wooden floors. You must use the appropriate sanding sheets. It is not designed for any other purpose.
3. The action of this floor sander can cause injury or damage if the machine is not used in a careful and controlled way.
4. If you have not used a floor sander before, familiarise yourself with the machine on some straightforward work before you start on the main task.
5. Plan your work and think ahead to make sure you will always be working safely.
6. You must have at least the following items of personal protective equipment: goggles: EN166 or BS2092; dust mask - a minimum of EN149 FFP3(s) protection; Safety boots to EN345 or BS1870/4972; industrial quality gloves; residual-current device (RCD) if using a 230 volt (mains) supply.
7. A personal first-aid kit should be available.
8. This floor sander must not be used by minors, or by anyone under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
9. This floor sander is designed for operation by an able bodied adult. Anyone with either temporary or permanent disability must seek expert advice before using it.
10. Floor sanders are heavy machines, get help if you have to unload it from your vehicle. Do not lift beyond your own capabilities.



WORK AREA

1. Do not use this floor sander where there is a danger of explosion. It will ignite fumes from petrol, or gas cylinders.
2. Make sure that the area is clear and safe and that no-one is near to you or could distract you.
3. Protect other people from the dust. Set up an exclusion zone around the area where the floor sander is being used with physical barriers, barrier tape and signs. Keep children and animals away when using this equipment.
4. Work should stop immediately should anyone, other than those directly assisting with the work, enter the exclusion zone.
5. Clear the area of trip hazards such as rubble, rubbish etc.
6. Do not use this sander in the rain or where it might get wet.
7. Sanding certain materials makes a large amount of dust - cover any surfaces or objects that may be damaged, or difficult to clean.

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 will need to wear an appropriate dust mask (with a minimum of EN149:2001FFP3 protection) when you are in contact with material that causes dust.
3. You must wear safety boots (EN345 or BS1870/4972).
4. You must wear industrial quality gloves.
5. Anybody who is working near to you will also need to wear identical personal protective equipment.

Before Starting Work...



FLOOR SANDER

1. Check your machine, cables, plugs and dust bag. If anything is found damaged, do not use the floor sander contact the hire company.
2. Check that the plug on your floor sander matches your supply. Do not try to force connections or improvise them.
3. Floor sanders with a cylindrical yellow industrial plug fitted are designed to run off an 110v supply. The hire company will have provided a portable transformer if you need to power the machine from a normal mains 230v supply. If a portable transformer has been supplied, take care not to injure yourself when moving it about - it may be heavier than you think. Floor sanders designed to run directly from 230v mains will have either a normal square pin plug fitted, or a blue industrial plug.
4. The handle maybe adjustable to a working position or for transport or it may be adjustable for height. Ensure it is secured in the correct position.
5. Always grip the handle of the floor sander correctly with two hands while working.
6. Vibration from using this floor sander can be hazardous. Warm your hands up before you start work, and wear gloves to keep your hands warm while you are working. Find out more about vibration. **Ask the hire company for a copy of the HAE leaflet no. 2150 – Hand-arm vibration or visit www.hse.gov.uk/vibration**

7. Check on how the on/off switch operates - before you switch the floor sander on, you must know how to stop it.

SANDING SHEETS AND DUSTBAG

1. Switch off and remove the plug from the socket before making adjustments or changing the sanding sheet.
2. Make sure you use the correct type of sanding paper recommended by the hire company.
3. Check the drum for damage every time you replace the sanding sheet.
4. Close and secure the covers after changing the sanding sheet.
5. Empty the dust bag when it is half full or when you stop work. Remember the sawdust is highly flammable.
6. Do not empty the sawdust bag onto a fire - it may explode.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY

Your machine will only operate on one voltage: it will be 110v or 230v.

110v machines will have a yellow industrial plug fitted. 230v machines will have either a normal square pin plug fitted, or a blue industrial plug. Read the instructions below for your machine.

110 VOLT MACHINES (YELLOW PLUG)

1. If you are using a portable transformer, plug the transformer directly into the 230 volt socket. Do not use any 230v extension cables.
2. If you need to use an extension cable, follow any special instructions given by the hire

company. If the hire company has not given any special instructions, you should only use a suitably rated heavy duty 110v extension cable, not longer than 50 metres (160 feet). You must only use an extension cable between the transformer and the machine.

3. Lay the extension cable out carefully avoiding liquids, sharp edges, doorways or windows where it might be trapped, and places where vehicles might run over it. Unroll it fully or it will overheat and could catch fire.
4. Make sure that any extension cable connections are dry and safe.

230 VOLT MACHINES (SQUARE PIN OR BLUE PLUG)

1. Use a residual current device (RCD) plugged directly in to the 230volt socket. Plug your machine into the RCD. This will help to protect you against electric shock if the cable or machine gets damaged.
 2. Use the "TEST" button to check that the RCD is working each time you use it. Reset the RCD according to the instructions supplied with it.
 3. If you need to use an extension cable, follow any special instructions given by the hire company. If the hire company has not given any special instructions, you should only use a suitably rated heavy duty one, not longer than 50 metres (160 feet). Plug it directly into the RCD.
 4. Lay it out carefully avoiding liquids, sharp edges, doorways or windows where it might be trapped, and places where vehicles might run over it. Unroll it fully or it will overheat and could catch fire.
 5. Make sure that any extension cable connections are dry and safe.
- Summary:**
 110V: Wall socket > transformer > any necessary extension cable > floor sander.
 230v: Wall socket > RCD > any necessary extension cable > floor sander.