

Using the Cultivator

1. Wear your protective equipment including ear defenders and boots.
2. Position your cultivator on the area to be dug then swing the transport wheel(s) out of the way and lock them..
3. On some models the transport wheels are removed completely for digging.
4. When positioning the cultivator keep the stationary tines clear of any path or borders or they may cause damage.
5. Usually on these models, the depth gauge, often a single tine, fits into the same clamp after removal of the wheels. Remember to set the depth gauge carefully following the instructions detailed under the heading CULTIVATOR, paragraphs 16 and 17.
6. Always hold the cultivator handle firmly with both hands while working.
7. While digging, keep a lookout for any stones or other objects in your path. Stop the cultivator and clear them out of the way.
8. The rotating tines can throw out small stones or other hard objects. Do not bend down to the tines when they are running.
9. Do not operate the digging tines on concrete or other hard surfaces. Injury or damage may occur.
10. If the tines become clogged with long grass or weeds, you must stop the engine. Clear the tines wearing gloves.
11. If you are working on heavy clay soils, check that there is no build up of clay around the drive mechanism. You must stop the cultivator before you attempt to remove it.
12. While working with the cultivator take care not to lose your footing on the soft uneven ground you have just turned over.
13. Stop the engine before leaving the machine unattended.
14. Clean the machine at the end of each day and before you return it to the hire company.
15. 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

Cultivator without driven wheels

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 Cultivator

1. Plan your work and think ahead to make sure you will always be working safely.
2. Petrol is flammable. Take care not to cause a fire or explosion.
3. This cultivator is designed for the rapid turning over of soil in the preparation of large gardens and other areas.
4. The action of this cultivator can cause injury or damage if the machine is not used in a careful and controlled way.
5. Keep your hands and feet well away from the rotating tines.
6. If you have not used a cultivator before, practice in the middle of your area to be dug until you are confident you can use the cultivator safely.
7. You must have at least the following items of personal protective equipment:
ear muffs or plugs giving protection for levels up to 88 dB(A);
safety boots (EN345 or BS1870) to protect feet and ankles;
strong gloves for handling any rubbish in the grass.
8. This cultivator is designed for operation by an able bodied adult. Anyone with either temporary or permanent disability must seek expert advice before using it.



WORK AREA

1. Do not use this cultivator where there is a danger of explosion. It will ignite fumes from petrol, or gas cylinders.
2. To reduce the risk of serious or fatal injury from breathing toxic fumes, do not run the engine indoors unless you have good ventilation. Ensure that you have proper ventilation when working in other confined areas.
3. Protect other people from the noise and from injury. Warn others to keep away, put barriers around your work area.
4. Make sure the ground you are about to turn over is free of large stones, pieces of wood, lengths of wire or anything else that may interfere with the tines. Wear your gloves to do this.
5. Dig out any big strong weeds, including the roots, by hand and dispose of them.
6. Long grass will bind the tines so it should be cut down to about one or two inches.

OPERATORS

1. The following items of personal protective equipment (ppe) are the minimum that should be worn whenever you use this cultivator. Particular jobs or environments may require a higher level of protection.
2. This equipment is likely to cause noise levels up to 88 dB(A) – wear appropriate ear muffs or plugs giving hearing protection for this level as a minimum.
3. You must wear safety boots (EN345 or BS1870 / 4972) giving good foot and ankle protection.
4. You will need strong gloves to

Before Starting Work...



handle any rubbish or debris on the ground.

5. You must wear safety boots (EN345 or BS1870 / 4972) giving good foot and ankle protection.
6. You will need strong gloves to handle any rubbish or debris on the ground.
7. Do not wear any loose clothing that could get caught in the machine.
8. Anybody who is working near to you will also need to wear appropriate personal protective equipment.

CULTIVATOR

1. Check your cultivator completely, including engine, control cables and levers, and the digging tines. If anything is found damaged, do not use the cultivator – contact the hire company.
2. Keep the cultivator in a near upright position when digging or you may spill oil out of the engine.
3. You can adjust the handle on your cultivator up and down. Make sure that the adjustment-locking device is tight before you start work.
4. Your cultivator will have a digging depth control. Do not set it to dig any more than 3" to 4" (8cm to 10cm). To dig deeper make a second and third pass, each time resetting the depth control.
5. Do not try to dig deeper than 8" or 9" (20cm to 23cm) in total.
6. On some models, drive is not



transmitted to the tines until you squeeze the clutch lever in.

7. On other models drive is not transmitted to the tines until you release the clutch lever. These models also have an emergency stop lever, which stops the machine if it is released.
8. In either case the machine will stop moving if you release the control levers.
9. If the cultivator gets out of control while working, do not fight to regain control. Release the control levers and the machine will immediately stop.
10. Make sure you understand all of the controls. Before you start the cultivator you must know how to control and stop it.

REFUELLING

1. No smoking.
2. Stop the engine and let it cool down.
3. Move the machine away from your work area.
4. Clean the filler cap and the area around it to prevent dirt falling into the petrol 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 the, straight away.
9. Put all fuel caps back on properly and move your fuel can to a safe, cool place.

STARTING

1. This section describes the starting procedure for most cultivators.
2. Some cultivators have a blade brake that needs to be held in during starting and use. If the hire company has given you special instructions for your cultivator, follow them. Otherwise, follow the instructions given below.
3. Check that there is no obstruction, including long grass, under the cultivator.
4. Open the fuel valve by the fuel tank. Your cultivator may also have a primer valve you have to push several times.
5. Check that the throttle lever is in the START position.
6. Hold the machine firmly with your left hand, so that it will not move when you pull the starting cord.
7. With your right hand, pull out the starting cord 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.
8. Guide the cord back into place so that it recoils correctly.
9. If the engine did not start, check that there is sufficient petrol, and that the throttle lever is in the correct position. Pull the starting cord again.
10. In cold weather, you may need to let the engine warm up by gently opening the throttle, before starting work.