

Landscape Safety: Using Power Tillers Safely¹

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BEFORE USING THE TILLER

- Read the owner's manual completely. Learn the purpose of all levers and controls. Be sure you can stop the machine quickly.
- If purchasing a new machine or renting ask the salesperson to demonstrate safe operation of the machine.
- Never allow anyone who is not physically or mentally mature or who has not been properly trained to operate the machine.
- Always inspect the machine for loose, broken, or damaged parts. Make needed repairs or replacements before using.
- Be sure all shields and guards are in place.
- Fuel the engine out of doors while stopped and cool. If refueling wait several minutes for engine to cool. Do not smoke while handling fuel. Wipe up any spills.
- If using an electric tiller that is not double insulated, you should plug it into a 3-socket, grounded outlet using a properly sized 3-wire extension cord. Using a Ground Fault Interrupter circuit gives maximum safety protection.
- Dress properly for the job: Wear snug-fitting clothing in good condition, safety glasses or goggles, hearing protection, safety shoes, and filter mask if conditions are dusty.
- Clear the work area of potential safety hazards such as wire, stones, bottles, cans, sticks, etc.
- Be sure there are no children, pets, or bystanders in the working area.
- Do not use the tiller near underground utilities, irrigation pipes, trees, etc.

OPERATING THE TILLER

- Never start the engine in a closed building. Deadly fumes can build up.
- Keep hands and feet clear of all moving parts.
- Do not operate in wet or slippery conditions. This is especially important for electric models.
- Be sure the depth regulator is engaged before starting the tiller. Failing to do this could cause the machine to lurch quickly away from you.
- Disengage the tiller and stop the engine to inspect for damage if you hit an obstruction. Repair any damage before resuming.
- Never leave the machine running and unattended.
- Always disengage the tines when turning or transporting the tiller.
- Never attempt to lift the tiller by yourself if transporting to a distant location. Drive the machine up secure ramps or ask for assistance if it must be lifted. Tie machine securely to prevent rolling.

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