



Article Provided By:

# Mower Safety Tips

Careful use of a mower protects the safety of the equipment operator and provides better mowing results. Below are some safety tips to help you ensure safe equipment operation.

## General safety tips

- Read and understand your operator's manual before operating the mower.
- Add fuel to the tank outdoors before starting the machine. Do not add gasoline to an engine that is hot or already running.
- The appropriate apparel should be worn when operating a mower. This includes and is not limited to: significant footwear, long pants, eye and hearing protection.
- Never allow passengers on ride-on mowers.
- Before leaving the operator's position, even momentarily, turn off the blade clutch engagement switch and apply the parking brake. Promptly return to the mower.
- Turn off the blade clutch engagement switch, apply the parking brake, stop the engine and remove the key when the mower will be unattended for a longer period.
- Always be aware of your surroundings. Look behind you before backing up and take your time around corners and blind spots.

## Preparing the area to be mowed

- Pick up stones and debris from the lawn to prevent injuries and damage from flying objects.
- Locate potential hazards such as ditches, drop-offs or embankments before starting.
- Make sure the area is free of pets and children, and that you are aware of all crew members on site.

## Operating the mower on slopes

- Consult your owner's manual to learn the limitations for what degree of slopes can be mowed safely.
- Remember to consider your comfort level and environment when deciding from what angle to approach a slope to mow.
- Don't operate the mower on slopes steeper than you feel comfortable with when considering your abilities and the traction.
- Travel across the grade of the slope whenever possible. Avoid mowing in an up or down pattern.
- Reduce speed on slopes.
- Be especially cautious when changing your direction on slopes.