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Using the Reversible Petrol Plate Compactor

1. Wear your protective equipment including ear defenders and safety boots.
2. The centrifugal clutch on reversible compactors stops the plate vibrating while the engine is idling. The throttle should be set to maximum when working.
3. Always grip the plate compactor correctly with two hands while working.
4. 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.
5. To help prevent vibration affecting your hands, operate the machine for shorter periods. Keep your hands warm - wearing gloves may help do this. Do not operate the compactor for more than the recommended daily time.
6. Always keep your hands, feet and any loose clothing away from moving parts of the compactor.
7. This machine will move forward or backwards, and can be manoeuvred easily, while the plate is vibrating. Your machine may be too heavy to drag into position while the plate is not vibrating. Be careful not to strain yourself by trying to move it; get assistance or use appropriate lifting equipment.
8. When reversing, take care not to: reverse over your feet, trip over while walking backwards or trap yourself in a corner.
9. Some reversible plate compactors have a safety feature if the operator loses control and releases the handle when being used in reverse. The handle will swing up vertical and the compactor will change into forward motion, allowing the operator to recover control.
10. Do not try to force the compactor to move faster, allow it to travel at its own speed forward or reverse; this will vary depending on the surface being compacted.
11. If the surface to be compacted is sloping take great care and only work up and down the slope, never across it.
12. If necessary attach a suitable piece of rope to a low point on the compactor chassis to enable an assistant to take part of the compactor's weight.
13. When the compactor is not being operated, stop the engine and turn off the fuel valve.
14. If your compactor has transport wheels make sure they are fixed properly to move the machine across the site.
15. If you need to leave the compactor unattended for long periods, overnight for example. You must ensure it is safe from vandalism or theft.
16. 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



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1. Check that the engine and machine controls are set correctly. The choke should be pulled out with a part throttle setting.
 2. Make sure that you hold the machine firmly so it will not move when you pull the starter.
 3. Pull the starter 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 it may break.
 4. Guide the cord back into place so that it recoils correctly.
 5. As soon as the engine has fired, adjust the throttle and choke to ensure an even running engine.
 6. If starting a warm engine, do not use the choke.
 1. Some or all of the accessories may be supplied as standard with the machine.
 2. When compacting asphalt or tarmac, use a water spray to prevent the surface sticking to the plate.
 3. Some surfaces, like paving blocks, need a rubber mat fixed to the plate to protect the final surface. Check with the hire company.
 4. If the compactor has transport wheels ensure they are safely stowed, or removed for work.
- ### ACCESSORIES
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 2. Make sure that you hold the machine firmly so it will not move when you pull the starter.
 3. Pull the starter 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 it may break.
 4. Guide the cord back into place so that it recoils correctly.
 5. As soon as the engine has fired, adjust the throttle and choke to ensure an even running engine.
 6. If starting a warm engine, do not use the choke.
 1. No smoking.
 2. Stop the engine and allow to cool down.
 3. If possible move the machine away from the work area.
 4. Clean the filler cap and the area around it to prevent dirt falling into the fuel tank.
 5. Use a funnel and clean petrol when refuelling. Do not spill any fuel on yourself or the machine.
 6. Wipe any fuel off the machine. Dispose of the fuel soaked cloth carefully.
- ### REFUELLING
1. This is a heavy machine. Get someone to help you when you are lifting it off a transport vehicle, and when you are moving it into position. Take care.
 2. Check your machine, engine, and all equipment. Do not use anything found damaged - contact the hire company.
 3. Always grip the plate compactor correctly with two hands while working.
 4. Vibration from using this plate compactor can be hazardous. Warm hands before starting work, and wear gloves to keep hands warm while working.
 5. Ensure you understand all of the controls. Before starting the machine, know how to stop it.

- ### STARTING THE ENGINE
1. Check that the engine and machine controls are set correctly. The choke should be pulled out with a part throttle setting.
 2. Make sure that you hold the machine firmly so it will not move when you pull the starter.
 3. Pull the starter 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 it may break.
 4. Guide the cord back into place so that it recoils correctly.
 5. As soon as the engine has fired, adjust the throttle and choke to ensure an even running engine.
 6. If starting a warm engine, do not use the choke.
 7. If any fuel is spilled on clothes, change them immediately.
 8. If any fuel is spilled on the ground, mop it up or cover it with soil.
 9. Put all fuel caps back on properly and move the fuel can to a safe, cool place.



Before Starting Work...

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

Reversible Petrol Plate Compactor

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 Reversible Petrol Plate Compactor

1. Petrol is highly flammable. Take care not to cause a fire or explosion.
2. The vibration from these machines may cause discomfort after prolonged use. Total average daily use for this type of machine is approximately 21/2 hours. Check the label on the machine, or ask the hire company.
3. If using this compactor on the public highway it may need to be HAUC compliant; check with the hire company.
4. This reversible compactor is designed to compact crushed hardcore, backfill, asphalt and other materials on level surfaces or gentle slopes.
5. This plate compactor is heavy, it can cause injury or damage if it is not handled at all times in a careful and controlled way.
6. If you have not used a reversible plate compactor before, you should receive instruction or guidance before you use it. Start your work in a safe area until you become familiar with its use.
7. Plan your work and think ahead to make sure you will always be working safely.
8. You must have at least the following items of personal protective equipment: goggles: EN166 or BS2092; dust mask - a minimum of EN149:2001ffp2 protection; ear muffs or plugs giving protection for levels up to 105 dB(A); safety boots to EN345 or BS1870/4972; gloves.
9. This machine must not be used by minors, or by anyone under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
10. This plate compactor is designed for operation by an able bodied adult. Anyone with either temporary or permanent disability must seek expert advice before using it.



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- ### 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 should wear goggles (EN166 or BS2092) when you are working with this machine.
 3. This equipment is likely to cause noise levels up to 105 dB(A) - wear appropriate ear muffs or plugs giving hearing protection for this level as a minimum.
 4. You will need to wear an appropriate dustmask (with a minimum of level 3 protection for this level as a minimum).
- ### PLATE COMPACTOR
1. Anyone working near to you will also need to wear appropriate personal protective equipment.
 2. Site regulations may require you to wear a safety helmet.
 3. You must wear safety boots (EN345 or BS1870/4972).
 4. Protect other people from the noise, debris and dust. Warn others to keep away, put barriers around your work area.
 5. The compacting action may damage underground pipes, cables or other services laid just beneath the surface.
 6. Make sure that the area is clear and safe and that no-one is near to you or could distract you.
 7. You must have good ventilation or extraction to remove the poisonous exhaust fumes and provide fresh air.
 8. Do not use this machine where there is a danger of explosion. It will ignite fumes from petrol, or gas cylinders.
 9. Do not use this machine where there is a danger of explosion. It will ignite fumes from petrol, or gas cylinders.
 10. You must have good ventilation or extraction to remove the poisonous exhaust fumes and provide fresh air.
 11. Make sure that the area is clear and safe and that no-one is near to you or could distract you.
 12. Protect other people from the noise, debris and dust. Warn others to keep away, put barriers around your work area.
 13. The compacting action may damage underground pipes, cables or other services laid just beneath the surface.
 14. You will need to wear an appropriate dustmask (with a minimum of level 3 protection for this level as a minimum).
 15. This equipment is likely to cause noise levels up to 105 dB(A) - wear appropriate ear muffs or plugs giving hearing protection for this level as a minimum.
 16. You will need to wear an appropriate dustmask (with a minimum of level 3 protection for this level as a minimum).



WORK AREA