

John Deere Mower

Safety Instructions

April 2014

Training

- Read the instructions carefully. Be familiar with the controls and the proper use of the equipment.
- Never allow children or people unfamiliar with these instructions to use the lawnmower. Local regulations can restrict the age of the operator.
- Never mow while people, especially children, or pets are nearby.
- Keep in mind that the operator or user is responsible for accidents or hazards occurring to other people or their property.

Preparation

- While mowing, always wear substantial footwear and long trousers. Do not operate the equipment when barefoot or wearing open sandals.
- Thoroughly inspect the area where the equipment is to be used and remove all objects which can be thrown by the machine.
- WARNING-Fuel is highly flammable.
 - store fuel in containers specifically designed for this purpose.
 - refuel outdoors only and do not smoke while refuelling.
 - add fuel before starting the engine. Never remove the cap of the fuel tank or add fuel while the engine is running or when the engine is hot.
 - if fuel is spilled, do not attempt to start the engine but move the machine away from the area of spillage and avoid creating any source of ignition until fuel vapours have dissipated.
 - replace all fuel tank and container caps securely.
- Replace faulty silencers.
- Before using, always visually inspect to see that the blades, blade bolts and cutter assembly are not worn or damaged. Replace worn or damaged blades and bolts in sets to preserve balance.
- On multi-bladed machines, take care as rotating one blade can cause other blades to rotate.

Operation

- Do not operate the engine in a confined space where dangerous carbon monoxide fumes can collect.
- Mow only in daylight or in good artificial light.
- Avoid operating the equipment in wet grass, where feasible.
- Always be sure of your footing on slopes.
- Walk, never run.
- For wheeled rotary machines, mow across the face of slopes, never up and down.

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- Exercise extreme caution when changing direction on slopes.
- Do not mow on excessively steep slopes.
- Use extreme caution when reversing or pulling the machine towards you.
- Stop the blades if the lawnmower has to be tilted for transportation when crossing surfaces other than grass, and when transporting the lawnmower to and from the area to be mowed.
- Never operate the machine with defective guards, or without safety devices, for example deflectors, in place.
- Do not change the engine governor settings or over-speed the engine.
- Disengage all blade and drive clutches before starting the engine.
- Start the engine carefully according to instructions with feet well away from the blade.
- Do not tilt the lawnmower when starting the engine or switching on the motor except if the lawnmower has to be tilted to start. In this case, do not tilt it more than absolutely necessary and lift only the part which is away from the operator.
- Do not start the engine when standing in front of the discharge chute.
- Do not put hands or feet near or under rotating parts. Keep clear of the discharge opening at all times.
- Never pick up or carry a lawnmower while the engine is running.
- **Stop the engine and disconnect the spark plug wire, make sure that all moving parts have come to a complete stop.**
 - before clearing blockages or unclogging chute;
 - before checking, cleaning, or working on the machine;
 - after striking a foreign object, inspect the machine for damage and make repairs before restarting and operating the equipment;
 - if the machine starts to vibrate abnormally (check immediately).
- **Stop the engine and disconnect the spark plug wire, make sure that all moving parts have come to a complete stop.**
 - whenever you leave the lawnmower;
 - before refuelling;
- Reduce the throttle setting during engine shutdown and, if the engine is provided with a shut-off valve, turn the fuel off at the conclusion of mowing.
- Inspect machine before you operate. Report, repair or replace damaged, badly worn, or missing parts. Make any necessary adjustments before you operate.
- Do not operate mower without discharge chute or entire grass catcher in place. Never operate with the discharge deflector raised, removed, or altered, unless using a grass catcher.
- Stop machine if anyone enters the area.
- Use care when approaching blind corners, shrubs, trees, or other objects that may obscure vision.

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- Use only accessories and attachments approved by the manufacturer of the machine.
- Do not operate machine if you are under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Do not wear radio or music headphones. Safe service and operation requires your full attention.

Maintenance and Storage

- Keep all nuts, bolts and screws tight to be sure the equipment is in safe working condition.
- Never store the equipment with fuel in the tank inside a building where fumes can reach an open flame or spark.
- Allow the engine to cool before storing in any enclosure.
- To reduce the fire hazard, keep the engine, silencer, battery compartment and fuel storage area free of grass, leaves, or excessive grease.
- Replace worn or damaged parts for safety.
- If the fuel tank has to be drained, this should be done outdoors.
- Never allow untrained personnel to service machine. Understand service procedure before doing work.
- Disengage drives, lower implement, stop engine and disconnect spark plug. Wait for all movement to stop before adjusting, cleaning or repairing.
- Shut off fuel while storing or transporting. Do not store fuel near flames or drain indoors.
- Use care when checking blades. Wrap the blades or wear gloves, and use caution when servicing them. Only replace blades. Never straighten or weld them.
- Keep hands, feet, clothing, jewellery and long hair away from moving parts. If possible, do not make adjustments with the engine running.
- Keep all parts in good working condition and all hardware tightened. Replace all worn or damaged decals.

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Checking Mowing Area

- Clear mowing area of objects that might be thrown. Keep people and pets out of mowing area.
- Low-hanging branches and similar obstacles can injure the operator or interfere with mowing operation. Before mowing, identify potential obstacles such as low-hanging branches, and trim or remove those obstacles.
- Study mowing area. Set up a safe mowing pattern. Do not mow where traction or stability is doubtful.



Rotating Blades are Dangerous - Protect Children and Prevent Accidents

Protect Children:

- Tragic accidents can occur if the operator is not alert to the presence of children. Children are often attracted to lawn-mowing machines and mowing activity. Stay alert to the presence of children. Never assume that children will remain where you last saw them.
- Keep children out of the mowing area and in the watchful eye of a responsible adult, other than the operator, when a mower is being operated.
- Be alert and turn mower off if a child enters the work area. They don't understand the dangers of rotating blades or the fact that the operator is unaware of their presence.
- Never allow a child or an untrained person to operate the machine.
- Use extra care when approaching blind corners, shrubs, trees, or other objects that may block your view of a child.



Operating Safely on Slopes

- Slopes are a major factor related to slip and fall accidents which can result in severe injury. Operation on all slopes requires extra caution. If you feel uneasy on a slope, do not mow it.
- Mow across the face of slopes, never up and down. Use extreme caution when changing direction on slopes.
- Watch for holes, ruts, bumps, rocks or other hidden objects. Uneven terrain could cause a slip and fall accident. Tall grass can hide obstacles.
- Do not mow on wet grass or excessively steep slopes. Poor footing could cause a slip and fall accident.
- Do not mow near drop offs, ditches, or embankments. The operator could lose footing or balance.

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Wear Appropriate Clothing

- Always wear eye protection when operating the machine.
- Wear close fitting clothing and safety equipment appropriate for the job.
- While mowing, always wear substantial footwear and long trousers. Do not operate the equipment when barefoot or wearing open sandals.
- Wear a suitable protective device such as earplugs. Loud noise can cause impairment or loss of hearing.



Prevent Fires

- Remove grass and debris from engine compartment and muffler area, before and after operating machine, especially after mowing or mulching in dry conditions.
- Always shut off fuel when storing or transporting machine, if the machine has a fuel shutoff.
- Do not store machine near an open flame or source of ignition, such as a water heater or furnace.
- Check fuel lines, tank, cap, and fittings frequently for cracks or leaks. Replace if necessary.

Handling Fuel Safely

To avoid personal injury or property damage, use extreme care in handling fuel. Fuel is extremely flammable and fuel vapours are explosive:

- Extinguish all cigarettes, cigars, pipes, and other sources of ignition.
- Use only approved non-metal, portable fuel containers. If using a funnel, make sure it is plastic and has no screen or filter.
- Never remove the fuel tank cap or add fuel with the engine running. Allow engine to cool before refuelling.
- Never add fuel to or drain fuel from the machine indoors. Move machine outdoors and provide adequate ventilation.
- Clean up spilled fuel immediately. If fuel is spilt on clothing, change the clothing immediately. If fuel is spilt near machine, do not attempt to start the engine but move the machine away from the area of spillage. Avoid creating any source of ignition until fuel vapours have dissipated.
- Never store the machine or fuel container where there is an open flame, spark.
- Prevent fire and explosion caused by static electric discharge. Static electric discharge can ignite fuel vapours in an ungrounded fuel container.
- Never fill containers inside a vehicle or on a truck or trailer bed with a plastic liner. Always place containers on the ground away from your vehicle before fuelling.



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- Remove fuel-powered equipment from the truck or trailer and refuel it on the ground. If this is not possible, then refuel such equipment with a portable container, rather than from a fuel dispenser nozzle.
- Keep the nozzle in contact with the rim of the fuel tank or container opening at all times until the fuelling is complete. Do not use a nozzle lock-open device.
- Never overfill fuel tank. Replace fuel tank cap and tighten securely.
- Replace all fuel container caps securely after use.
- For petrol engines, do not use petrol with methanol. Methanol is harmful to your health and to the environment.

Handling Waste Product and Chemicals

Waste products, such as, used oil, fuel, coolant, brake fluid, and batteries, can harm the environment and people:

- Do not use beverage containers for waste fluids - someone may drink from them.
- See your local Recycling Centre or authorized dealer to learn how to recycle or get rid of waste products.