



Mini Excavator Safety Instructions

These Instructions must be read by the operator before running the excavator. If in any doubt please call the office.

1. The excavator must be operated correctly according to the manufacturer's or owner's operating instructions which are available on request if required.
2. The driver should be properly trained in the safe operation of mini excavators.
3. It is a requirement of the law that operators must be over the age of 18 years.
4. Wear personal protective equipment as conditions determine. A hard hat and boots with steel toecaps are usually necessary. Wear a dust mask in dusty conditions. Dust generated by the excavation can give rise to silicosis.
5. Carry out service check and adjustments at the start of each working day with the engine shut down and the boom lowered to the ground.
6. **DO NOT** work under the excavator when it is jacked up on its boom (or blade).
7. **CHECK** that all guards and covers are secure before starting. **NEVER** operate the excavator with missing guards or covers.
8. Only use buckets and attachments supplied by the Hire Company and operate them according to the manufacturer's instructions, which are available on request if required.
9. **CHECK** that all persons and animals are clear of the work area before starting and at all times during the work.
10. Before starting check for the presence of underground cables and pipes and/or seek advice if necessary. **DO NOT** use the excavator to dig directly above these services, only use hand tools.
11. Only start and operate the machine when sitting in the seat.
12. Before starting to excavate, lower the dozer blades to the ground to give stability.
13. If the machine is fitted with stabilisers always lower them into position before work starts, lifting the wheels off the ground.
14. Familiarise yourself with the controls in an open space before starting work. **WARNING**, the track drive controls are reversed when facing backwards.
15. **DO NOT** use maximum engine speed until completely familiar with all controls.
16. **DO NOT** carry passengers on the excavator.
17. **DO NOT** use the excavator beneath overhead electric cables unless there is adequate clearance with the boom in its highest position.
18. If trenches are to be excavated then it is likely that these will need support if they are more than 1.2 metres deep.
19. **DO NOT** force the excavator beyond its capacity. This can cause the machine to become unstable.
20. Take care when operating in the fully offset position, the machine is less stable.
21. Extreme care should be taken when operating in the fully offset position, the machine is less stable.
22. **DO NOT** move forward over a trench when digging always move back away from it.
23. When loading another vehicle the drive of that vehicle should dismount and stand well clear.
24. **DO NOT** use a bucket to drive in posts or piles, etc.
25. **DO NOT** stand or work under a raised boom.
26. **DO NOT** sling a load from the boom or bucket unless it is fitted with the correct safety crane hook and is marked with a "Safe Working Load", for example "SWL 500kg".
27. Any person slinging loads should know about safe slinging practices.
28. Only use suitable lifting gear that has been inspected and marked with its SWL.
29. **DO NOT** lift a load that is heavier than the safe working load.
30. **DO NOT** travel with the boom and dipper raised and extended. Always fold tight into the machine.
31. **DO NOT** cross kerbs and other obstructions at an angle. Keep the bucket as low as possible.
32. **DO NOT** smoke when refuelling. **NEVER** refuel with the engine running.
33. Replace the fuel caps securely on the engine and fuel container. Wipe up any spillage immediately.
34. Fuel containers should be in good condition and leak proof.
35. **DO NOT** use the excavator in a hazardous or explosive atmosphere, or where fuel has been split.
36. **DO NOT** operate the excavator in a badly ventilated or area where exhaust fumes can build up.
37. If the machine has to be used in an enclosed area ducting may be used to discharge exhaust fumes to a safe place.
38. Check that there is no combustible material lying on or against the exhaust system. The exhaust pipe and silencer get very hot.
39. In the event of a leak of fuel or oil developing, switch off the engine immediately.
40. If warning lights show or gauges register outside normal limits, switch off the engine.
41. **DO NOT** top up with coolant while the engine is running. Allow the radiator to cool before removing the radiator cap and topping up.
42. When noise levels are uncomfortably high at 85-89 dB(A), it is advisable to wear hearing protectors.
43. At still higher noise levels, when it is necessary to should to be heard, (90 dB(A) and above) the law requires that hearing protectors must be worn.
44. Before stopping the engine and leaving the seat, lower the bucket (and blade) to the ground.
45. If the machine is fitted with tracks, park on timbers in freezing weather to prevent the tracks from freezing to the ground.
46. **DO NOT** attempt repairs. Contact the Hire Company.