



POWER LAWN MOWERS

When used improperly, a power lawn mower can cause serious injuries. It is safe only when handled by a capable operator who has a full understanding and respect for its dangers.

A mower rotary blade whirls between 2,000 or 4,000 revolutions per minute, causing the blade tip of an average 20-inch mower to move at a speed of 100 to 200 miles per hour. Because of this, mowers should be operated at reduced speeds whenever possible.

- For your safety, always wear protective, tight fitting clothing including closed-toe shoes. Unless well muffled, gas powered mowers will exceed 100 decibels; if it's loud, you must use ear protection - if you want to be able to hear in a few years.
- Before mowing, carefully inspect the lawn for debris. Mowers can easily throw rocks or pieces of wire 20-30 feet. When starting the mower, stand firmly with your feet in a safe position away from the blade, and have self-propelled mowers out of gear. Gas tanks should be refilled outside. Never fill them to the top of the tank or while the engine is hot, because this could cause a fire or explosion. Store gasoline in an approved, properly labeled container.
- ALWAYS turn the motor completely off to remove a foreign object or blockage, or if you leave it. If it's equipped with a safety stop on the handle grip, don't defeat it; many people have been injured as a result. It's also a good idea to keep children and pets away from where you are working.
- While mowing, stay in step with the mower, keeping all guards and safety shields in place. If you happen to fall, push the mower away from you--don't pull it. Never use an electric mower on wet grass and make sure the power cord is safe and the motor is grounded.
- If using a riding mower, keep your feet on the footrests. Remember that the mower can tip over easily. It's also important to know how to quickly disengage the clutch and stop the engine.
- You should also follow routine maintenance procedures to keep your mower in good repair. When working on the underside of a mower, disconnect the spark plug.
- For your safety, don't overexert yourself. Take rest periods to help prevent accidents.