

# IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS



## WARNING:

### READ AND UNDERSTAND ALL INSTRUCTIONS

Failure to follow all instructions listed below and on the machine may result in electric shock, fire, and/or serious personal injury.

### READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS

- This lawn mower is capable of amputating hands and feet and throwing objects. Failure to observe all safety instructions could result in serious injury or death.
- Avoid Dangerous Environment-Do not use the lawn mower in damp or wet conditions or operate in the rain.
- Only allow responsible adults, who are familiar with the instructions, to operate this machine.
- Keep the area clear of all bystanders, children, and pets while mowing. Stop machine if anyone enters the area.
- Tragic accidents can occur if the operator is not alert to the presence of children. Children are often attracted to the machine and the mowing activity. Never assume that children will remain where you last saw them.
  - \*Keep children out of the mowing area and under the watchful care of a responsible adult other than the operator.
  - \*Be alert and turn mower off if a child enters the area.
  - \*Never allow children to operate the lawn mower.
  - \*Use extra care when approaching blind corners, shrubs, trees, or other objects that may block your view of a child.
- Dress properly-Do not wear loose clothing or jewelry. They can be caught in moving parts. Use of rubber gloves and footwear is recommended when working outdoors.
- Don't over reach-Keep firm footing and balance. Do not overreach. Over-reaching can result in loss of balance.
- Do not operate the equipment with barefoot or when wearing sandals or similar lightweight footwear. Wear protective footwear that will protect your feet and improve your footing on slippery surfaces.
- Do not leave the mower unattended while running.
- Keep hands and feet away from cutting area. Keep clear of the discharge opening at all times.
- Operate the lawn mower only in daylight or good artificial light.
- Use safety glasses-Always wear safety glasses with side shields. Everyday glasses have only impact resistant lenses. They are NOT safety glasses. Following this rule will reduce the risk of eye injury. Use face mask if environment is dusty.
- Wear safety glasses or goggles that are marked to comply with ANSI Z87.1 standard when operating this product.
- Use the right appliance-Do not use the lawn mower for any job except that for which it is intended.
- Do not force the lawn mower-It will do the job better and safer at the rate for which it was designed.
- Stay alert-Watch what you are doing, and use common sense when operating the lawn mower. Do not operate the mower while tired or under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or medication. A moment of inattention while operating the lawn mower may result in serious personal injury.
- Maintain lawn mower with care - Keep machine in good working condition. Keep blades sharp and guards in place and in working order.
- Check all nuts, bolts, and screws at frequent intervals for proper tightness to be sure the equipment is in safe working condition.
- Stop the motor, wait until the blade comes to a complete stop, and disconnect from power supply before cleaning the lawn mower, removing the grass catcher, or removing the mulching plug. Never use a hose, water, or any liquids to clean the lawn mower, as water can damage electronic components. Remove any buildup of grass and leaves on or around the motor cover. Wipe the mower clean with a dry cloth occasionally.
- Replace blade if it is bent or cracked. An unbalanced blade causes vibration that could damage the motor drive unit or cause personal injury. Sharpen a dull blade equally at each end to maintain the balance. Clean the blade thoroughly and check its balance by supporting it horizontally on a thin nail through its center hole. The nail should be in a horizontal position. If either end of the blade rotates downward, remove some metal from the heavy or lower end until the blade is balanced. It is balanced when neither end drops.
- When not in use, mower should be stored indoors in a dry, locked up place—out of reach of children. The extension cord should also be removed and stored in a separate location out of the reach of children.
- Always use safety protective devices. Do not operate the mower without the entire grass catcher discharge guard, rear guard, or other safety protective devices in place and working properly.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions for proper operation and installation of accessories. Only use accessories approved by the manufacturer.
- To reduce the risk of electric shock, this appliance has a polarized plug (one blade is wider than the other) and will require the use of a polarized extension cord. The appliance plug will fit into a polarized extension cord only one way. If the plug does not fit fully into the extension cord, reverse the plug. If the plug still does not fit, obtain a correct polarized extension cord. A polarized extension cord will require the use of a polarized wall outlet. This plug will fit into the polarized wall outlet only one way. If the plug does not fit fully into the wall outlet, reverse the plug. If the plug still does not fit, contact a qualified electrician to install the proper wall outlet. Do not change the equipment plug, extension cord receptacle, or extension cord plug in any way.
- Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) protection should be provided on the circuit(s) or outlet(s) to be used for the lawn mower. Receptacles are available having built-in GFCI protection and may be used for this measure of safety.
- Inspect lawn mower cord periodically and if damaged, have it repaired by an authorized service facility. Inspect extension cords periodically and replace if damaged. Keep handles dry, clean, and free from oil and grease.
- Warning — To prevent electric shock use only with an extension cord suitable for outdoor use, such as SW, SOW, STW, STOW, SJW, SJOW, SJTW, or SJTOW.
- Extension Cord-Make sure your extension cord set is in good condition. When using an extension cord, be sure to use one heavy enough to carry the current your product will draw. For lengths less than 50 feet, No. 14 AWG extension cord should be used. An undersized cord will cause a drop in line voltage resulting in loss of power and overheating. To reduce the likelihood of disconnection of lawn mower cord from the cord set during operating use the cord retainer described in this manual.
- Under normal usage the catcher assembly is subject to deterioration and wear and should, therefore, be frequently checked for replacement. Only use identical replacement catcher assemblies.
- Don't Abuse Cord — Never pull lawn mower by cord or yank it to disconnect from receptacle. Keep cord from heat, oil, and sharp edges.
- Risk of death or serious personal injury if power lines or electric cords are contacted. Never operate mower over electrical sources, cords, or wires.
- Clear the work area before each use. Remove all objects such as rocks, tree nuts, sticks, metal, wire, bones, toys, or other objects which can be thrown by the blade. Stay behind the handle when the motor is running.

## IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

- Avoid holes, ruts, bumps, rocks, property stakes, or other hidden objects. Uneven terrain could cause a slip and fall accident.
- Do not mow near drop-offs, ditches, or embankments.
- Mow across the face of slopes, never up and down. Exercise extreme caution when changing direction on slopes.
- Plan your mowing pattern to avoid discharge of material toward roads, sidewalks, bystanders and the like. Also, avoid discharging material against a wall or obstruction, which may cause the material to ricochet back toward the operator.
- Do not mow on wet grass or excessively steep slopes. Poor footing could cause a slip and fall accident. Walk, never run.
- Use extra care when approaching blind corners, shrubs, trees, or other objects that may block your view.
- Do not pull the mower backward unless absolutely necessary if you must back the mower away from a wall or obstruction first look down and behind to avoid tripping.
- Never direct discharged material toward anyone. Avoid discharging material towards a wall or obstruction. Material may ricochet back toward the operator. Stop the blade when crossing gravel surfaces.
- Objects struck by the lawn mower blade can cause severe injuries to persons. The lawn should always be carefully examined and cleared of all objects prior to each mowing.
- If the lawn mower strikes a foreign object, follow these steps:
  - \* Stop the lawn mower by releasing the blade control lever, wait until the blade comes to a complete stop, and disconnect extension cord from power supply.
  - \* Thoroughly inspect the mower for any damage.
  - \* Replace the blade if it is damaged in any way. Repair any damage before restarting and continuing to operate the mower.
- Stop the motor, remove the switch key, and wait until the blade comes to a complete stop before unclogging the chute. The cutting blade continues to rotate for a few seconds after the motor is shut off. Never place any part of the body in the blade area until you are sure the blade has stopped rotating.
- If the mower should start to vibrate abnormally, stop the motor and check immediately for the cause. Vibration is generally a warning of trouble.
- Service on the product must be performed by qualified repair personnel only. Service or maintenance performed by unqualified personnel could result in injury to the user or damage to the product.
- Use only authorized replacement parts when servicing the product. Use identical replacement blades only. Use of unauthorized parts may create a risk of serious injury to the user or damage to the product.
- Maintain or replace safety instructions labels, as necessary.
- Disconnect from power supply — Disconnect extension cord from power supply before storing, servicing, or changing accessories such as blades. Such preventive safety measures reduce the risk of starting the tool accidentally.
- Stop the unit and disconnect the extension cord from power supply when not in use. Carry or push the unit with the motor stopped and the extension cord disconnected from the power supply.
- Store idle lawn mower indoors — When not in use, mower should be stored indoors in a dry, locked place out of the reach of children. The extension cord should also be removed and stored in a separate location out of the reach of children.
- Follow instructions for lubricating and changing accessories.
- Keep guards in place and in working order.
- Keep blades sharp.
- Keep hands and feet away from cutting area.
- Only allow responsible adults, who are familiar with the instructions, to operate this machine.
- Never operate machine in a closed area.
- Never tamper with safety devices. Check for proper operation regularly.
- Save these instructions. Refer to them frequently and use them to instruct others who may use this product. If you loan someone this tool, loan them these instructions also.