

MOST IMPORTANT - RISK ASSESS!!!

Before you commence any work at your chosen work area, you should undertake some preliminary **hazard identification and risk control** precautions. Ideally more than one person should do this. This is undertaken by:

1. Physically inspecting the work site
2. Reviewing the best way/job steps required to complete the task
3. Reviewing the Safe Work Information supplied with the equipment
4. Reviewing other reference documentation and expert advice

The hazard identification and control process steps are defined as:

1. Identify the Hazards (eg. 240V power drill use around wet areas)
2. Assess the Risk (multi earth paths - possible electrocution)
3. Select the Control Measure (e.g. dry the area; use an RCD; use a cordless drill etc)
4. Re-assess the Risk (risk of electrocution now negligible). This is undertaken to ensure that the risk control measures adopted have not introduced any new risks to the work area.

HELP

If the unit does not operate correctly or you are unhappy with its performance, return it to the nearest Kennards Hire Centre for exchange or phone for assistance. **Do not attempt repairs yourself.**

Refer to your hire contract for details of our **AFTER HOURS EMERGENCY NUMBER.**

PERSONAL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT (PPE)



SAFETY DO'S

General Safety Do's

DO take your time to **Read this User Guide** and other Safety material (e.g. manufacturer's instructions) completely and in its entirety **BEFORE** operating the Post Hole Digger unit.

DO seek medical advice from your doctor if you have any medical condition that may be affected by the operation and manual handling of the Post Hole Digger unit.

DO ensure that the equipment is suitable for your needs and working environment.

BEFORE STARTING

1. Ensure there are no obstructions including cables and pipes in the area where you are to dig. **DIAL 1100 BEFORE YOU DIG.** Electric cables and gas pipes can cause fatality if struck!
2. Ensure the auger is locked in position by turning the locking collar a quarter of a turn anti-clockwise.
3. If the auger strikes a solid object and jams, release the throttle lever or operating handle immediately.
4. Never move the Post Hole Digger from the drilling site while the auger is spinning.
5. Always turn the machine off when cleaning obstructions from the auger.
6. Always operate the two man machine with two people, one either side of the machine.

STARTING/STOPPING

1. Move ignition switch to the "On" position.
2. Pull throttle trigger to half throttle position, and then lock by depressing locking button situated by your thumb.
3. A cold engine is started with the choke shutter in the "O" position until the engine fires for the first time, then immediately return the choke shutter to the "I" position.
4. Continue cranking the engine until it starts.
5. After motor start, depress throttle and then release for motor to return to idle speed.
6. Manoeuvre the digger to the required spot for drilling and with a person either side of the machine.
7. To stop, reduce motor to idle speed and move ignition switch to "Off" position.
8. Remove auger by turning the locking collar a quarter of a turn clockwise.

OPERATION - TWO MAN POST HOLE DIGGER

1. Advance the throttle to the fully on position, this will cause the clutch to engage and the auger to drive.
2. By applying downward pressure to the handles the auger will commence digging.

DO ensure the supplier/hirer shows you how to use the Post Hole Digger and that you fully understand and are familiar with the equipment and its operations including emergency shut down/response.

DO ensure that the Post Hole Digger and auger is assembled and used according to the manufacturers and hirers' instructions.

DO check controls for proper response.

DO ensure that only the operator/s is/are near the Post hole Digger during use. Keep all others, including pets and children, a minimum of 20 feet away from your work zone.

DO wear proper headgear to keep hair away from moving parts.

DO always wear protective hearing devices as needed.

DO always wear safety shoes.

DO always wear safety glasses or goggles while operating the digger.

DO wear leatherwork gloves. Be sure they are tight fitting without loose cuffs or draw strings.

DO ensure that the PPE you use has an Australian Standards compliance label.

DO use the Post Hole Digger in daylight, or under good artificial light where all aspects of the job are easily seen and discernable.

DO be careful not to touch the muffler after the engine has been running. It will be hot.

DO when cleaning or inspecting, make certain all moving parts have stopped and that the Post Hole Digger is shut down.

DO always operate in a clear hazard free work area.

DO ensure that you have clear access and egress to the work area whilst on the job.

DO shut down the Post Hole Digger if a fault is detected.

DO check the condition of the Post Hole Digger at the start and end of each day and report any damage or defects.

DO ensure that all guards and hoses are correctly attached and in good condition.

DO keep hands away from all moving parts.

DO be aware of "pinch areas" and keep fingers away.

Petrol Safety Do's

DO always operate petrol units in well ventilated areas. A build up of petrol fumes (carbon monoxide) can KILL...

DO replace petrol cap securely and wipe off any spilled petrol before starting the engine as it may cause a fire or explosion.

DO not let children near hot surfaces such as exhaust pipes.

DO allow engine to cool before refueling.

SAFETY DON'TS

General Safety Don'ts

DO NOT operate or permit anyone else to operate the Post Hole Digger if tired or suffering any medical condition, or if under the

influence of alcohol or drugs which may cause lethargy or danger to yourself or others.

DO NOT ever use the Post Hole Digger for any other purpose than digging post holes. It is designed for this use and any other use may cause an injury. Your Post Hole Digger is a precision piece of power equipment, not a toy. Therefore, **exercise extreme caution at all times.**

DO NOT ever allow children to operate the Post Hole Digger. Do not allow adults to operate it without proper instruction. Only persons well acquainted with these rules of safe operation should be allowed to use the Post Hole Digger.

DO NOT wear loose clothing or jewellery that can be caught by moving parts of the Post Hole Digger and pull you into it. Keep clothing away from all moving parts of the Post Hole Digger.

DO NOT operate the Post Hole Digger on slippery, wet, muddy or icy surfaces. Safe footing is essential in preventing accidents.

DO NOT ever place hands or feet near auger while motor is operating. To do so may result in crushed or amputated fingers or toes or worse, you may lose an arm or foot.

DO NOT straddle the handle/s of the Post Hole Digger when using it. A slip in any position could result in a serious injury.

DO NOT ever leave the Post Hole Digger unattended with the engine running. Shut off the engine if you are leaving the Post Hole Digger, even for a short period of time. Someone could accidentally activate the Post Hole Digger and be injured.

DO NOT operate the Post Hole Digger in poor mechanical condition or when in need of repair.

DO NOT ever allow persons or animals to ride on or play near the equipment.

DO NOT allow other people, children or pets into work/danger areas. (Barricade off if necessary).

DO NOT leave holes open or exposed. Cover or barricade off to prevent people or animals from falling into hole)

DO NOT start the machine if a fault is detected.

DO NOT operate equipment without guards correctly fitted.

Petrol Safety Don'ts

DO NOT fill the petrol tank indoors.

DO NOT smoke while operating the Post Hole Digger.

DO NOT smoke while in the vicinity of petrol, petrol containers or petrol powered equipment

DO NOT smoke while using or refueling the unit.

DO NOT refuel the unit while it is running.

DO NOT start or use the unit within 3 metres of any fuel containers.

DO NOT ever operate petrol units in areas that contain flammable liquids or gas.

DO NOT ever operate petrol units in a confined space.

3. Do not attempt to drill auger to full depth in one motion; easing the machine upwards occasionally will help the removal of the soil and aid any further drilling.
4. If drilling large holes it is advisable to drill a pilot hole with a 100mm (4") auger.

OPERATION - ONE MAN POST HOLE DIGGER

1. Turn the fuel tap to the on position (straight down). Pull choke out if the motor is cold. Pull the recoil to turn the engine over. Push choke in fully once the motor has fired.
2. Manoeuvre machine to the required drilling area and adjust the length of the shaft if more leverage is required.
3. To dig, rotate auger by pulling lever on the right towards the handle. Push down onto the handles to start drilling.
4. The amount of down force required will depend on the hardness and the type of ground conditions.
5. If the auger jams on an obstruction a pressure relief valve will activate, causing the auger to stop. Pull lever on the left towards the handle to reverse the auger. Remove and clear the auger and start again.
6. If the auger jams in the hole, reverse may be required to clear the jam. Apply reverse by pulling the left hand side of the lever towards the handle.
7. Do not attempt to drill auger to full depth in one motion. Continually clearing the hole in an up and down motion will facilitate a much easier drilling motion.

OPERATION - ONE MAN POST HOLE DIGGER SMALL

1. Turn the fuel tap to the on position (straight down). Engage choke lever if the motor is cold. Pull the recoil to turn the engine over. Push choke lever in fully once the motor has fired. Caution: auger is engaged as soon as motor starts and will commence to rotate.
2. Manoeuvre machine to the required drilling area.
3. Increase motor speed and push down onto the handles to start drilling.
4. The amount of down force required will depend on the hardness and the type of ground conditions.

5. If the auger jams on an obstruction, rotate machine anti-clockwise until free from obstruction. Clear the obstruction and start again.
6. Do not attempt to drill auger to full depth in one motion. Continually clearing the hole in an up and down motion will facilitate a much easier drilling motion.

MAINTENANCE ON SITE

- Periodically check that all nuts, bolts, screws, hose clamps and hydraulic fittings are tight to be sure equipment is in safe working condition.
- Where appropriate, check all safety guards and shields to be sure they are in the proper position. Never operate the Post Hole Digger with safety guards, shields or other protective features removed - these safety devices are for your protection.

OPERATION - HAND OPERATED POST HOLE DIGGER

1. If the ground to be drilled is hard, try to give it a good soaking the day before digging is to commence.
2. Place auger above area to be drilled and then apply downward pressure rotating the unit clockwise.
3. Clear hole of excess dirt to facilitate easier digging.
4. The handle on the auger prevents you from digging closer than 390mm from the centre of the hole to obstacles such as trees, fences and walls.

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This operating and safety brochure is intended as a guide only for the safe operation of this equipment. It does not override license requirements nor is it a substitute for a structured operating lesson.

If you are unsure about any aspect of the equipment or its capabilities or if you are in doubt as to its proper usage, feel free to consult our trained employees for instruction or the answers to any questions you may have regarding the safe operation of this equipment.