

String Trimmer Training



Before Operating

- Read the operator's manual to find out where controls are located and how they function, as every weed wacker is different. Check for additional safety instructions in the operator's manual and know how to stop the machine quickly.
- Never allow untrained individuals to operate weed wackers.
- Before weed wacking, walk the area and pick up objects lying on the lawn. Tools, cans, bottles, wire, rocks, sticks, twigs, and limbs can be hazardous to bystanders and the operator.

Before Operating

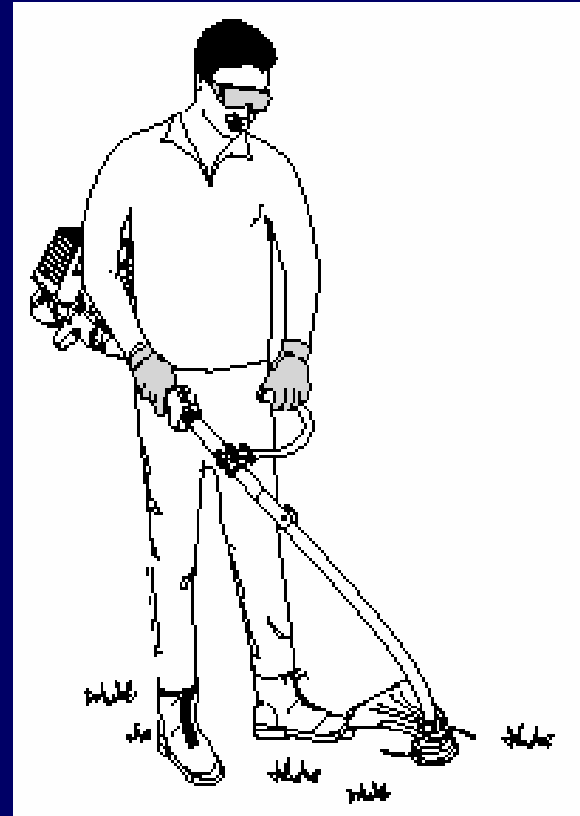
- Check the supply of string and see if the blades are sharp on the unit. Replace bent, warped, damaged or dull cutters.
- Check the fuel level.
- Make sure the muffler is in good condition. In dry weather, use a fire-safe muffler.
- Ensure that shields and other guards are in place and working properly. Do not remove or disable guards or other safety devices.

Weed Wacking with Proper Protective Equipment



Safety Protection

- Clothing protects the operator from thrown objects and sun exposure. Dress properly for the job, wearing long pants, and close-fitting clothes. Chain saw chaps to protect the legs may be required.
- Tie back long hair and don't wear anything that could become entangled in the moving parts of the trimmer.



Safety Protection

- Do not operate equipment when tired or under the influence of medication. Medication can impair one's ability to safely use the equipment.
- Operate the trimmer while standing upright, not bent over. Adjust the harness and hand grip to suit work positions.
- Shut off the engine and disconnect the spark plug wire when making repairs or adjustments.

Boots



- Always wear sturdy, non-slip soled shoes or boots when using a weed wacker.

Eye Protection



- Use safety glasses and/or goggles to protect the eyes from dust, dirt, trash, and small rocks thrown by the blade. Face screens in combination with safety glasses and/or goggles provide better protection.

Ear Protection



- Use earplugs or muffs to protect your hearing from engine and blade noises.

Hand Protection



- Select equipment with anti-vibration components or wear gloves for protection.
- Protect hands by wearing gloves when handling the blades and other items which might be sharp, contain nicks, or have metal burrs on the edges.

Fueling Safety



- Use proper fuel (two cycle gas/oil mixture) if weed wacker is gas powered.
- Do not overfill the tank, leave room for expansion.
- Do not add any fuel if the engine is still hot; let it cool down before re-fueling.
- Never light a match or smoke around gasoline.

Keep People at Safe Distances

- **WARNING** – Weed wackers and string trimmers can throw objects violently, up to 30 feet. Keep people **AT LEAST** 30 feet (60 foot radius) away to avoid possible injury. Stop immediately if approached.

Operation of Weed Wackers

- Start the unit on firm ground or other solid surface in an open area.
- Hold the unit with both hands. Keep a firm footing.
- Keep the trimmer head below waist level.
- Always stand on the proper side of the trimmer while cutting. On a curved shaft unit, the line head rotation is clockwise (cut on the left side.) On a straight shaft unit, the line head rotation is counterclockwise (cut on the right side).

Operation of Weed Wackers

- Bring the engine to operating speed before starting to cut vegetation.
- Do not operate engine faster than needed to effectively cut the vegetation.
- Allow the engine to return to idle speed when not cutting.
- Always turn off the engine and disconnect the spark plug wire, if accessible, before attempting to unclog or adjust the weed wacker. To avoid placing hands near the blade, use a stick to remove the clog.

Keep Trimmer in Peak Operating Condition

- Inspect the weed wacker periodically for potential hazards such as loose belts, and missing or damaged guards. Also examine the weed wacker for accumulations of grass, leaves, or excessive grease to reduce fire hazard.
- Conduct routine maintenance and inspections.

Shut Down of Weed Wacker

- Idle down the engine a few minutes to allow the engine to cool down.
- Stop the engine before putting the weed wacker down.
- Always clean the weed wacker after use. Do not spray cold water on hot engine.
- Secure the trimmer to prevent fuel spillage and damage during transport.
- Keep the cutter tool covered with the carrying guard.