

Lawnmower Tip Sheet

Always READ the instruction manual before using the machine.

If your mower is supplied unassembled the handle must be unfolded and bolted together, all bolts checked and engine filled to the correct level with oil and petrol before use, (except two stroke engines). It is now common for mowers to be supplied in this way but if you prefer we can supply the mower "ready to go". The charge for this service is £10 + VAT.

Machines are supplied without oil and require filling before use. Please refer to the owner's manual for the correct quantity of oil. **DO NOT** over-fill. Under or overfilling with oil can cause serious engine damage. Briggs & Stratton engines use SAE30 oil. Honda Engines use 10w40 oil. Car engine oil is not suitable and will invalidate the engine warranty. Always check your oil level before starting the machine. The most frequent cause of major engine damage is "lack of lubrication" i.e. low oil, wrong oil, or dirty oil. All of these causes will result in rejection of warranty claims.

All lawnmowers now have an operator presence control handle to stop the engine if the operator is not present at the rear of the machine. It must be held shut in order to start the machine. Starting is done with the operator at the rear. To facilitate this, the starter cord pull-handle is designed to be located into a metal loop halfway up the handle. (Some mowers are excluded if they have a BBC system, which activates a clutch between engine and blade).

The machine is designed to cut grass ONLY. Be careful not to let the blade hit hard objects or the ground; this may bend the crank and cause blade damage. The blade boss is designed to shear in order to offer some protection against engine damage. Damage caused in this way is not covered by the manufacturer's warranty.

If you need to clean the under side of the deck turn the engine off, tip the machine to a maximum of 45 degrees with the carburettor kept at the highest point. If the machine is tilted turned with the carburettor downwards the air filter and carburettor can become saturated with oil preventing the machine from starting. If oil is tipped into the exhaust it will be ejected and burnt when the machine is started, this will clear within a few minutes. Saturated oil filters are not replaceable under warranty; they are only caused by tipping the machine or by overfilling with oil.

Unleaded fuel "goes off" after around 30 days. Almost all machines that fail to start are suffering from stale fuel problems. After last use before the winter, or if the machine is not used for more than 30 days, use a petrol additive to prevent petrol from becoming stale. This prevents gum and varnish build up and also eliminates valve-sticking problems. Stale or dirty fuel problems DO NOT constitute a warranty failure and can result in large repair bills. Briggs & Stratton additive is available from Mincost at £2.95+VAT per bottle.

Take care when folding down the handles, to avoid kinking or stretching control cables. Damage to these cables will be a chargeable repair and is not covered by the manufacturer's warranty.

All machine warranties are for domestic use only. Mowers, which have excessive use through contracting, will not be covered by manufacturer's warranty schemes. All mowers need regular servicing in accordance with manufacturer's instructions

Self-Propelled machines have a drive belt, this drive belt area should be regularly cleared of grass & debris to avoid clogging up the drive mechanism or cause the belt to overheat. All manufacturers regard belts as a wearing consumable item, therefore we strongly advise regular inspection before the machine is used.

Mincost customers have the benefit of first class after sales facilities for servicing and warranty work. Steve Virgo Garden Machinery Services are contracted to provide highly skilled fitters to carry out any servicing requirements that customers may have for machines bought from us. Please ring 01594 840500 for details of servicing or 01594 845907 for warranty issues.