

The background is a dark grey surface with various safety-related icons embossed on it, including a hand holding a key, a gear, a lightning bolt, a triangle with an exclamation mark, a square with a hand, a circle with a lightning bolt, a gear, a hand holding a key, a triangle with an exclamation mark, a square with a hand, a circle with a lightning bolt, and a gear. A vertical yellow bar is on the left side. A horizontal orange bar is below the main title.

Think And Live Safely



**MOWER OPERATOR
SAFETY REQUIREMENTS**



Toro designs, produces and markets safe, state-of-the-art products for your convenience. Proper use depends on you.

Please keep this brochure in a convenient location, read it carefully, share it with other users of power lawn mowers, especially within your family, and enjoy your Toro mower.



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WELCOME TO THE TORO FAMILY:

Thank you for choosing a Toro lawn mower. With your purchase comes the responsibility to use your new mower properly and *Safely!*

This brochure concerns your safety and the safety of those around you.

PLEASE read it carefully!

Toro products are built with state-of-the-art safety devices and meet or exceed current industry and government safety standards; however, their proper use depends on YOU.



Toro mowers are designed to cut grass, and they do this to perfection.

A lawn mower, however, does not know the difference between a blade of grass and a finger, or a toe.



Most mower-related accidents are caused by negligent and careless behavior.

It is up to you, the user, to stay away from moving parts.

REMEMBER:

A moment of carelessness could lead to a lifetime of regret!

Safe Operating Rules for Walk-Behind and Riding Mowers

The same caution should be exercised when operating a lawn mower as driving an automobile. The following rules are intended to help you avoid possible injury or even death. Most safe operating instructions apply whether you are using a riding mower or a walk-behind mower, and should always be observed.

Before performing any service on a mower, such as changing the oil or removing the blade for sharpening, pull the wire off the spark plug. This will ensure that the engine does not start. Also, always disconnect the battery on electric start models. Do not alter governor settings. See your Toro dealer if your mower is not performing properly.

1. Read Operator's Manual Thoroughly!



Operator's manuals address the use and reasonably foreseeable misuse of the machine. The manuals are written by Toro employees familiar with the operation of the machines, their capabilities and their limitations. Engineers who designed the machines are also involved in writing the Operator's Manuals.

Keep the Operator's Manual in a place where you can find it when needed.

Pay particular attention to the safety instructions. Insist that all individuals who will be operating the mower read and understand the Operator's Manual and this brochure at the beginning of each mowing season.



SAFETY ALERT

This symbol is important to your personal safety and the safety of those in the area. When you see it, read the accompanying message carefully.

2. Know How to Stop the Machine Quickly!

Before doing anything else, check the operation of the blade-stopping feature. Whether it is a blade brake clutch (BBC) or an engine kill, if the blade-stopping feature is not working properly, **DO NOT** operate the mower until the problem has been located and corrected. See your Toro dealer to be sure.



Never leave the operator position without first stopping the engine.

3. Leave all Safety Features Intact!

Guards, shields, deflectors, and warning decals are on the machine for your protection and that of others.

Do not remove or disable a safety feature because it seems to be an inconvenience. If a safety feature should be lost or damaged, or a decal should become illegible, discontinue use of the mower until the damaged or missing parts are repaired or replaced.

The deflector on side discharge mowers and the discharge chute guard on front discharge mowers are designed to direct thrown objects downward into the grass. They also help prevent accidental contact with the blade.

Do not remove or disable a deflector, shield, or guard. Do not operate the mower if the deflector is in any position other than the normal operating position.



Raising, removing, or repositioning the deflector for any reason is almost asking for an injury.

Further, be certain no persons or pets are in the vicinity of a mower when it is in use, as a thrown object which hits a sidewalk, driveway, or other hard surface, can ricochet upward.



Stop mowing if a person or foreign object appears in your mowing area.



This is the only way to avoid possible injury to that person or damage to objects in the cutting area.

Do not operate a rear bagger or a mower with a mulching attachment unless the discharge door is closed, or the bag, mulcher plug, or side discharge attachment is properly secured.



Check the grass-catching bag frequently as it is subject to deterioration. If it is worn or damaged, replace it with a new bag. A hole or a weak spot in the bag could allow a foreign object to be thrown into the operator's position or the surrounding area.

If you notice damage to the mower such as loose screws, missing bolts, broken parts, or anything abnormal, **STOP the engine, wait for all moving parts to stop, and correct the condition before you resume mowing.**

Check all parts periodically for wear or deterioration and replace as required with genuine Toro parts.

Toro parts are designed and tested specifically for use on Toro products. If a part on your mower must be replaced, use a genuine Toro part.



4. Clear the Mowing Area!

The mower blade rotates at an extremely high speed! It is shaped to create an upward draft under the housing, a vacuuming action, to stand the grass up for a cleaner cut. Because of this, the blade can pick up debris, such as small rocks, wires, and broken glass, and throw it out the discharge port with considerable force.

The operator should use extreme caution to minimize the risks from these thrown objects by taking these precautions.

Before starting the mower, walk around the area and pick up any rocks, wires, sticks, and other objects that the blade might pick up and throw. Be careful about this.



REMEMBER
Once an object has been thrown and caused injury, it is too late to think about what should have been done!

Keep everyone out of the area being mowed. If children are playing in the back yard, cut the front yard, and vice versa. Better still, send them into the house while you are mowing.

A child can dart in front of the mower in a fraction of a second, and that's all it takes for an accident.



If someone enters the yard while you're mowing, turn off the mower and wait until he or she leaves the area before restarting the mower.

NEVER cross driveways or paths with the blade rotating. The blade can pick up and throw gravel or loose rocks.

5. Avoid Blade Contact!

Always assume the blade is turning when the engine is running.

NEVER put your hand or any part of the body, in or anywhere close to the blade path when the engine is running. This applies even if the mower is equipped with a blade brake clutch.



REMEMBER: There is little clearance between the outer ends of the blade and the inside surface of the housing. An injury can result if the operator of a lawn mower puts his or her hand in the path of a turning blade when attempting to clear a plugged discharge port, or when changing the height-of-cut without turning off the engine.



To depend entirely on the mechanical or electrical safety devices is not good enough. Use *Caution* and *Common Sense* as well.

REMEMBER:



Never clear the chute with the engine running. Turn off the engine and be sure the blade has stopped before making any adjustments or corrections. Use a stick to clear a plugged discharge area.

Never use your Hand!

6. Never Allow Children to Operate a Lawn Mower!



A lawn mower is not a toy, and cutting grass is not child's play.

Maturity varies greatly among children, but a good rule to follow is: If you're not comfortable with them driving your automobile, you should not allow them to operate a lawn mower—whether it is a walk behind or riding mower.

Only adults and mature teenagers should operate a mower, and even mature teenagers should have adult supervision. Be sure a teenager:

1) has the ability to read and understand the Operator's Manual and to recognize the risks involved;

2) is sufficiently mature to use caution; and

3) is of sufficient size and weight to operate the controls comfortably and to manage the mower without taking risks.



If you have doubts or questions,

Do not take the risk!

Make sure all persons operating the mower read and understand the Operator's Manual first and are familiar with the controls.

7. Wear Appropriate Clothing!

Dress for the job of cutting grass. This means substantial shoes (no sandals, tennis shoes, etc.) and full length trousers must be worn. Never mow barefooted. Be aware that loose clothing or dangling jewelry can become entangled in moving mower parts and lead to an accident.

To be properly dressed for the job, goggles or similar eye protection is recommended.



8. Give Your Mowing Operation Your Full Attention and Full Use of all of Your Faculties!

Do not operate a lawn mower when under the influence of alcohol, medication or other mind-altering substances; or if you feel especially depressed, tired, or angry.



Avoid distractions such as ear phones. Stay alert and devote your full attention to what you are doing and to who and what is around you.

9. Refuel your Mower Carefully!

Follow precautions outlined in the Operator's Manual when filling the lawn mower tank with gasoline.



Do not smoke while filling the fuel tank. Do not fill the fuel tank indoors, or while the engine is hot or running. Wipe up any spilled fuel before starting or restarting the engine.

10. Corded and Cordless Mowers

Electric and battery operated mowers have advantages you can't get with a gasoline powered engine. All the safety precautions addressed earlier in this booklet also apply to operators using electric or battery mowers. However, special care must be taken when handling any electric or battery powered product to reduce the risk of



electrical shock. Primarily, it is important to use the proper extension cord; one that is intended for outdoor use. The cord should be in excellent condition. Always replace a damaged extension cord

immediately. Never attempt to repair an extension cord. Don't abuse the cord, or pull the mower by the cord.

Be aware of mowing conditions. Do not close a door on the cord or pull the cord around sharp edges or corners. Keep cord away from extreme heat and oil. Always plan your mowing pattern to allow cord to lay across the grass which has already been cut.

Always stop the motor and disconnect the mower from the extension cord whenever you leave the mower, before cleaning the housing or making any repairs, adjustments or performing an inspection. To unplug the cord, grasp the plug, not the cord.

Do not operate any electric appliance in wet or damp conditions. Do not handle the appliance with wet hands or while standing in water.

Your battery operated mower comes with a key (plug) which should be in place only when the mower is being operated. Stop the motor and remove the key before adjusting, cleaning or servicing the mower or when changing attachments.



When the mower is being charged, the key should be placed in a safe location away from children. The charging process for all batteries produces explosive gases. All batteries contain corrosive acids which can cause blindness or severe burns. Charge your mower in a well ventilated area away from sparks, flames and smoking.

Use care when handling batteries. Do not wear rings or jewelry which could contact both the positive and negative battery posts and short the battery. The battery or conductor may overheat and cause burns.

11. Follow These Additional Mowing Instructions!

We recommend mowing only in dry conditions. If circumstances absolutely require mowing in wet conditions, *Be Especially Careful* and ever-mindful that wet grass may not disperse or bag properly. Wet grass can clump in the discharge area. If that occurs, shut off the engine before attempting to remove the grass from the discharge area.



There is also the possibility you might slip on wet grass and your foot might slide into the blade path.

We recognize that mowers will be used from time to time when the grass is wet. There may be little choice in areas of high humidity and/or frequent rainfalls. In those situations, it is up to you to *Be Especially Careful*.

Do Not mow too close to a ditch, on steep hills, or any terrain where you might lose control of the mower. A 15-degree slope (27% grade) is generally considered the maximum slope for mowing. See drawing in the middle of this brochure.

When using a walk behind mower, *Mow Across* a slope, *Never Up and Down*.

When using a riding mower, *Mow Up and Down—Never Across*—a slope greater than 5 degrees (and Never on a slope greater than 15 degrees). Also, see the section on *Riding Mowers* in this brochure.

If the grass is excessively long, cut it high on the first pass. This will help to eliminate clumping of the grass in the discharge port and to expose and uncover any objects hidden in the high grass that could be thrown by the blade.

After picking up all visible objects, cut the grass a second time to the desired height.

If the blade comes in contact with a solid object, *Stop the Engine*. Wait for all moving parts to stop, remove the spark plug wire, and check the machine immediately. An abnormal vibration is a sign of trouble, and the mower should be repaired before you resume operation.

Push a walk-behind mower *Forward*; do not pull it backward toward your body.

Keep hands and other parts of the body away from the engine when it's hot to avoid a severe burn.



Mow the lawn only when there is daylight.

Never leave the mower unattended while the engine is running.



STOP the Mower Engine each time it is necessary to change the height-of-cut or clear a plugged chute. Use a stick to clear the chute, not your hand.

The above precautions should add up to no more than 20 minutes each mowing season—20 minutes that could possibly save toes and fingers.

Riding Mowers

The safety instructions above also apply to riding mowers. In addition, the following rules apply specifically to riding mowers.

1. Carry No Passengers!

Never allow passengers, especially a child on your lap, on any riding mower, in any cart, or on any implement being towed. This reduces your ability to control the mower and diverts your attention from the mowing job at hand.



Remember, there is always a risk that the child could slip and fall or jump off the mower.

2. Do Not Mow in Reverse!

Do not mow in reverse unless absolutely necessary, and you are certain no one is behind you. If you must back up, disengage the blade and look *Behind you and Down* before and while you back up.

Some riding mowers are equipped with a device that prevents mowing in reverse. If you think mowing in reverse is necessary and you are absolutely certain no children or bystanders will appear in the mowing area or if you need reverse to safely operate an attachment, it is possible to temporarily deactivate the operating-in-reverse interlock feature by turning the "Key Choice" switch located in front of and below the seat or to the right of and below the seat.

3. Use Care During Slope Operation!

Reduce speed on slopes. If possible, make turns on level ground at the top and bottom of the slope. Watch for holes, ditches, and embankments into which a wheel could drop causing you to lose control—or even tip over. Do not change direction suddenly.

Do Not "pop" the clutch.

Keep the riding mower in gear when on slopes so the engine can act as a brake. Use a gear low enough that you won't have to stop and shift down on the slope.

If the tires slip, the slope is too steep. Disengage the blade and move slowly straight down the slope.

Mow *Up and Down* on slopes over 5 degrees—*Never Across* the face of the slope. (Note: This is opposite to operating a walk-behind mower on a slope.)



Never Operate a Riding Mower on Slopes over 15 Degrees. (See slope gauge in Operator's Manual or in the middle of this brochure.)

When operating a riding mower on a slope between 5 and 15 degrees, *Back Up* the slope with the blade disengaged, and *Mow Down* the slope.



Caution: *If there is any doubt about tipping or losing control, stay off the slope.*

When using a grass bagging attachment, remember the weight of the grass in the bag affects the stability of the riding mower.

It's up to you, the operator, to anticipate problems and to avoid them!



For further information regarding safe use of your Toro mower or to comment on the contents of this brochure, write:

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SLOPE CHART

