



Using Small Equipment Safely in Landscaping

Through OSHA's Alliance Program this Quick Card was developed as a product of the OSHA and Professional Landcare Network (PLANET) Alliance for informational purposes only. It does not necessarily reflect the official views of OSHA or the U.S. Department of Labor. This Quick Card is available in both English and Spanish.

- Read and understand the operator's manual for your equipment. Receive training on all equipment that is new to you. **THIS IS CRITICAL!**
- Check all equipment before using to ensure all guards are in place and equipment is in good working order. Do not alter or remove safety guards.
- Always wear the recommended safety equipment, especially eye and ear protection, with all equipment that spins at high speeds (i.e. line trimmers, stick edgers, etc.).
- Dress appropriately. Snug-fitting clothes are less likely to get caught in operating equipment.
- Stop using blowers, line trimmers, mowers, etc. when someone walks by. Make sure to aim blowers away from cars, houses and people.
- Keep your hands on the handles of all hedge trimmers. Do not reach up into the plants to clear debris until the trimmer is shut off.
- Keep hands and feet away from mower chutes.
- When using chain saws, make sure the chain brake works and the chain tension is correct.
- Do not operate small equipment in the dark or when it is hard to see.
- Shut off equipment when not in use.
- When refueling, let the equipment cool off first.
- Never smoke when fueling.
- Disconnect spark plug wires before performing maintenance.