



Using the Plate Compactor

1. Wear protective equipment including dust mask, heavy duty industrial gloves, ear protection and safety boots.
2. If your fingers start to tingle from vibration, stop using the plate compactor and flex your hands and fingers to keep them warm and encourage circulation. To find out more about vibration ask the hire company for a copy of the HAE leaflet no. 2150 – Hand-arm vibration or visit www.hse.gov.uk/vibration
3. Ensure that the plate compactor is kept clean and dry.
4. This machine moves forward under its own traction and can be turned easily while the motor is running. Be careful not to strain yourself by moving it while the engine is not running.
5. The machine may be fitted with a reverse gear. When reversing, take care not to: a) reverse over feet; b) trip over walking backwards; c) trap yourself in a corner / against an object.
6. Stop the engine if leaving the machine unattended.
7. If the compactor has transport wheels, make sure they are fixed properly before moving the machine.
8. If the equipment does not work properly do not attempt to repair it. Contact the hire company.
9. You may want to read this leaflet again. Please keep it safe until you finish work.

Plate Compactor

The rules and procedures in force where people are at work may require the person responsible for this equipment to carry out a specific risk assessment.

1. It is important to read this entire leaflet before using the plate compactor.
2. Plan your work and think ahead to make sure you will always be working safely.
3. Petrol is highly flammable. Take care not to cause a fire or explosion.
4. This compactor is designed for compacting hardcore or the final levelling of paving blocks or other surfaces. It is not designed for any other purpose.
5. The action of this plate compactor can cause injury or damage if the machine is not used in a careful and controlled way.
6. If you have not used a plate compactor before, familiarise yourself with the machine on some straightforward work before you start on the main task.
7. The following items of personal protective equipment are a minimum requirement: goggles; dust mask- a minimum of FFP3 protection; ear defenders or plugs giving protection to reduce exposure to 87dB(A) at ears; safety boots; heavy duty industrial gloves. Further details have been included in the 'Operators' guidance which follows.
8. The plate compactor must not be used by young persons or by anyone under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
9. The plate compactor is designed for operation by an able-bodied adult. Anyone with either temporary or permanent disability must seek expert advice before using it.
10. Plate compactors are heavy machines, get help if you have to unload it from your vehicle.
11. Extra care should be taken when folding the handle frame to avoid the pinch/trap point at the hinge of the equipment.
12. Do not lift beyond your own capabilities.



WORK AREA

1. Do not use this plate compactor where there is a risk of explosion. It may ignite fumes from petrol or gas cylinders.
2. Using this equipment indoors or in confined spaces could cause fatal carbon monoxide poisoning. For confined spaces and /or indoor work the use of an electric or battery powered plate compactor is recommended.
3. Ensure the work area is clear and safe and that no-one is nearby or could cause distraction.
4. Set up an exclusion zone around the area where the plate compactor is being used with physical barriers, barrier tape and signs. Keep children and animals away when using this equipment.
5. Work should stop immediately should anyone, other than those directly assisting with the work, enter the exclusion zone.
6. Clear the area of trip hazards e.g. rubble, rubbish etc.
7. Be aware that the compactor may damage pipes or cables laid just beneath the surface.

OPERATORS

1. The following items of personal protective equipment (PPE) are the minimum that should be worn whenever using the Plate Compactor. Particular jobs or environments may require a higher level of protection.
2. Wear appropriate close fitting safety spectacles or goggles (EN166).
3. An appropriate dust mask (with a minimum of FFP3 protection) is required when you are compacting material that causes dust.
4. This equipment is likely to cause noise levels up to 105 dB(A) – wear appropriate ear defenders or ear plugs (EN352). You should pick ear defenders or ear plugs that can be shown to give enough protection to limit the risk of hearing loss. You may need to check that the ear defenders you pick do not make things too quiet. When ear defenders or ear

Before Starting Work...



plugs are too good, they make it hard to hear important orders or alarms.

5. Safety boots must be worn with non-slip soles (ISO 20345).
6. Dress properly. Do not wear loose clothing or jewellery. Keep your hair and clothing away from moving parts. Loose clothes, jewellery or long hair can be caught in moving parts. Clothing must be sturdy but allow complete freedom of movement. Clothing must be free from flammable deposits (fuel, oil, etc.).
7. When combining PPE, it is necessary to check that it is compatible in order to ensure that it will provide reliable protection when being worn together.
8. Anybody who is working close by will also need to wear identical personal protective equipment.
9. This machine is heavy and must not be lifted single-handedly, either get help or use suitable lifting equipment. Do not lift or transport the machine when it is running.

PLATE COMPACTOR

1. Check the machine, engine, and all accessories. Do not use anything found to be damaged - contact the hire company.
2. Always grip the plate compactor correctly with two hands while working.
3. Make sure that you understand all of the controls. Before starting the machine, locate the off switch.
4. Vibration from using this plate compactor can be hazardous. Warm hands up before starting work and wear gloves to keep hands warm

when working. To find out more about the effects of vibration ask the hire company for a copy of the HAE leaflet no. 2150 – Hand-arm vibration or visit www.hse.gov.uk/vibration

ACCESSORIES

1. When compacting asphalt or tarmac, use a water spray to prevent the surface sticking to the plate.
2. Some surfaces, like paving blocks, need a rubber mat fixed to the plate to protect the top surface. Seek advice from the hire company.
3. If the plate compactor has transport wheels make sure they are safely stowed.

REFUELLING

1. No smoking, naked flames or other sources of ignition (e.g. vaping). Refuel in a well-ventilated area.
2. Stop the engine and let it cool down.
3. If possible, move the machine away from the work area.
4. Clean the filler cap and the area around it to prevent dirt falling into the fuel tank.
5. Use a funnel and clean petrol when refuelling. Do not spill any fuel on yourself or the machine.
6. Wipe any fuel off the machine. Dispose of fuel-soaked cloth carefully.
7. If any fuel is spilt on the ground, this should be controlled with appropriate absorbent material and disposed of correctly. Care should be taken to avoid any spills entering storm drains, waterways or sewers.

8. If any fuel is spilt on your clothes, change them straight away.
9. Put all fuel caps back on correctly and move the fuel can to a safe, cool place.

STARTING THE ENGINE

1. If the hire company has supplied special instructions, follow them. Otherwise, follow the instructions given below. Position the plate compactor at the work location before starting the engine.
2. Check the oil and fuel levels before trying to start the engine.
3. Move the ignition switch to the ON position.
4. Check that the throttle lever is in the IDLE position.
5. Do not wear gloves when starting the engine. Also, ensure there is no loose clothing or flapping sleeves that could get caught in the equipment.
6. Turn the fuel tap to the OPEN position.
7. When starting from cold, open the choke lever fully.
8. Grasp the pull cord firmly and pull upwards, then guide the cord back so that it recoils correctly.
9. If the engine is now running, close the choke lever.
10. Allow the engine to run for a short period to warm up before you commence compacting.
11. Open the throttle lever to the RUN position.
12. To stop the engine, position the throttle to idle, turn the ignition switch to the OFF position and close the fuel supply tap.

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