



### Important

- DO NOT drive a timber post into the ground until the Petrol Post Driver barrel (body) touches the ground as this may result in damage to the equipment.
- ALWAYS disengage the throttle trigger when removing the Petrol Post Driver from the post being driven into the ground.
- Once the required depth is achieved, release the throttle fully ensuring the petrol engine is idling and the hammer action has stopped.

### Using the pilot core tool

- Drive the pilot core tool using the adaptor & collar supplied by your hire company.
- Insert the T-bar and remove the pilot core tool from the ground – use lever where necessary.
- Using the correct size adaptor for the post being installed, drive the post into the hole to the required depth.
- Ensure the necessary downward pressure is applied whilst pressing the throttle.

### Warning incorrect use - Dry firing

Dry firing is the result of engaging the throttle when the hammer is moving without load being placed on the machine.

Common causes of dry firing, which must be AVOIDED, are not engaging correct downward pressure, engaging the throttle without a post inserted or driving a jammed post.

**These can cause injury to both operator and damage to the Petrol Post Driver**

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**Please fully read and retain this safety leaflet as this may be required for future reference.**

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### Operating conditions

Both ground conditions and weather contribute to operational characteristics of the Petrol Post Driver. In temperatures of 25°C and above, continual running of the machine must not exceed 10-15 minutes for both personal and machine safety. This also applies when operating in hard/frozen ground conditions as posts typically take longer to drive into the ground.

### MACHINERY FAILURE

If the Petrol Post Driver stops functioning as a result of breakage or failure, stop work immediately and shut down the engine – seek advice from the supplying hire company.

### INSURANCE

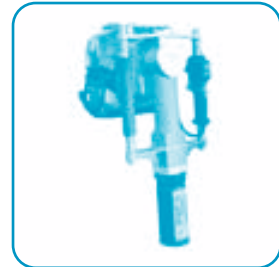
- Under the terms of hire, you are responsible for the safe custody of the equipment. The hire company must be indemnified against loss or unreasonable such as vandalism. The best way to achieve this is by insurance.
- The equipment must always be secured against theft or vandalism.
- Some hire companies will offer insurance cover at an extra charge.
- In addition, be aware that if damage is caused to property belonging to a third party or if involved in a highway accident, it is unlikely that normal insurance policies will give any protection.
- If in any doubt regarding the insurance cover, check with the hire company or insurer immediately.

# PETROL 4/S – POST DRIVER

**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..**

**It is important to read the entire leaflet BEFORE using the Petrol Post Driver. It is also important to observe all safety advisory labels and pictograms on the equipment prior to operating. Further instructions can be found in the box provided with the machine.**

**Additional information may also be available in the form of instructional videos from the manufacturer – check with your hire company.**



- This machine is a Petrol Post Driver designed with anti-vibration handles for driving timber posts into the ground.
- Ensure that you select the appropriate adaptor (also known as reducing bush) for the timber post size being driven into the ground.
- Refer to pictograms on the machine, taking notice of the safety warning symbols used to identify hazards (e.g. entanglement, tripping, crushing and obstacles on the ground).
- DO NOT operate the Petrol Post Driver unless the machine is located on a post and between 10-15kg of downward force is placed on the handles.

### OPERATORS

- The Petrol Post Driver MUST NOT be used by minors or by anyone under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- The Petrol Post Driver is designed for operation by an able-bodied adult. Anyone with either a temporary or permanent disability must seek expert advice before using the machine.
- The operator must read this entire leaflet BEFORE using the machine. It is also important to observe all safety advisory labels and markings on the equipment prior to operating.



**PPE**

The following items of personal protective equipment (PPE) are the minimum that should be worn whenever using the equipment. Particular jobs or environments may require a higher level of protection.

1. Wear appropriate close fitting safety spectacles or goggles.
2. Always wear an appropriate dust mask where dust is generated (FFP3 to be considered as the minimum level of protection).
3. This petrol-powered equipment is likely to cause noise levels up to 105dB(A). Wear appropriate ear defenders or ear plugs. 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 plugs are too good, they make it hard to hear important orders or alarms.
4. Safety boots or shoes with non-slip soles must be worn.
5. Dress appropriately. Do not wear loose clothing or jewellery. Keep your hair and clothing away from moving parts. Clothing must allow complete freedom of movement.
6. Vibration from using this machine can be hazardous. Warm hands up before commencing work and wear industrial quality gloves to keep hands warm while working.

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](http://www.hse.gov.uk/vibration).

7. When combining PPE, check compatibility to ensure they will provide reliable protection when worn together.
8. A personal FIRST AID kit should be available.

**General safety**

1. Familiarise yourself with the controls before operation and ensure you are familiar with how to stop the machine in an emergency.
2. Check all safety guards and shields and ensure they are in the correct position. DO NOT operate with safety guards, shields or other protective features removed.
3. The operator must maintain a stable standing position with feet shoulders width apart keeping body weight balanced and standing firmly, always holding the Petrol Post Driver with both hands ensuring the handles are not contaminated with oil or grease.

4. The Petrol Post Driver MUST ONLY be operated with both feet in contact with the ground and the operator MUST NOT attempt to use the machine from a raised platform, ladder, hop-up, bed of a vehicle or similar working surface.

**Work area**

1. Keep all bystanders, livestock, pets and children a safe distance from the machine while it is in operation.
2. Do not use this Petrol Post Driver where there is a risk of explosion. It may ignite fumes from petrol or gas cylinders.
3. Ensure the work area is clear and safe and that no-one is nearby or could cause distraction.
4. Protect other people from the noise, debris and dust. Warn others to keep away from work activity, place suitable signage in the work area.
5. Conduct a full survey of the operational area prior to operating the Petrol Post Driver.
6. Check there are no hidden electric cables, gas or water pipes where work is being carried out.

**PETROL ENGINE SAFETY**

Only operate the Petrol Post Driver in an open, well-ventilated area. (Exhaust fumes contain carbon monoxide which can be deadly when inhaled).

**Refuelling**

1. No smoking, naked flames or other sources of ignition (e.g. vaping). Refuel in a well-ventilated area.
2. Stop the engine if operating and let it cool down before refuelling.
3. Where 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.
8. Care should be taken to avoid any spills entering storm drains, waterways or sewers.

# Before Starting Work...

9. If any fuel is spilt on your clothes, change them immediately.
10. Replace all fuel caps correctly and move the fuel container to a safe, cool place.

**Starting the engine**

If the hire company has supplied special instructions, follow them. Otherwise, follow the instructions given below. Only start the engine with the Petrol Post Driver upright. Do not start the Petrol Post Driver when it is lying on the ground.

1. Position the Petrol Post Driver 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. Prime the engine by pushing the primer bowl 3-5 times (from cold start only).
6. When starting from cold, open the choke lever fully.
7. Ensure there is no loose clothing or flapping sleeves which could get caught in the equipment.
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 and return throttle to idle position.
10. Allow the engine to run for a short period to warm up before you commence work.

**Stopping the engine**

11. To stop the engine, position the throttle to idle, turn the ignition switch to the OFF position.

**Additional Engine Driven Equipment Safety**

1. During operation the Petrol Post Driver can reach **HIGH TEMPERATURES**, care must be taken that no persons or objects are near the hot engine.
2. The exhaust becomes extremely **HOT** during operation. Do not touch the exhaust when hot. To avoid serious burns or a fire hazard, please allow the engine to cool down before transportation or storage.
3. Exercise additional care if using in a dry climate or during warm periods where the risk of land/forest fires are present (including dry grass areas).

**BEFORE USING THE PETROL POST DRIVER**

1. When resting the Petrol Post Driver, it is recommended to do so using the engine guard, with guide tube and guard resting on the ground.
2. The Petrol Post Driver should be transported with the crank cover plate facing down and the machine secured to avoid overturning.
3. Drive the post into the required location by hand. A guide cord or cable can be used to maintain a straight fence line if multiple posts are being installed. Ensure guide is removed prior to operation.
4. Ensure the post is in a vertical location and the Petrol Post Driver is parallel to the post.

**Dry or Compacted/Hard Ground**

5. A Pilot Core Tool may be used to achieve a 50mm pilot hole. To ease driving, fill the pilot hole with water and leave to soak.
6. If the ground is very dry, compacted or hard, a larger pilot hole may be required for posts greater than 80mm in diameter.

**USING THE PETROL POST DRIVER**

**Important warning** - Sudden or unexpected movement of the machine may occur during operation. If care is not taken during use this may result in injury to the operator and/or damage to the machine.

Identify if the POST size requires a specific collar and use pilot core drill (see instructions below) supplied by your hire company.

1. The machine should only be operated by the user's hands, no additional body contact (e.g. supporting or leaning into the machine) is required as this may result in injury.
2. During use DO NOT engage the throttle until downward force is applied on the post being driven into the ground. Failure to do so may result in injury to operator and equipment damage.
3. Use a downward force of 10-15kg, keeping force applied until releasing the throttle.
4. Gently pull the throttle trigger until the hammer action is felt.