



Battery & Cordless Equipment

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 all of this leaflet before you start work and any others issued before you use the battery operated equipment



1. Electricity, even low voltage, must always be used with care.
2. The rechargeable batteries in some cordless equipment may contain toxic chemicals. Take care.
3. Cordless equipment is designed to enable the user to carry out a variety of different jobs with powered tools without having long trailing electric cables or cumbersome engines.
4. The action of cordless tools can cause injury or damage if not used in a careful and controlled way.
5. If you have not used battery operated equipment before, familiarise yourself with the equipment before starting work.
6. Plan your work and think ahead to make sure you will always be working safely.
7. Various items of personal protective equipment will require to be worn, check the safety instruction leaflet issued for the equipment you have hired to find what you need.
8. A residual current device (rcd) will be needed if charging batteries from a 230 volt mains supply.
9. Cordless tools must not be used by minors, or by anyone under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
10. Cordless Tools are designed for operation by an able bodied adult. Anyone with either temporary or permanent disability must seek expert advice before using it.

WORK AREA

1. Do not use cordless equipment where there is a danger of explosion. It could ignite fumes from petrol or gas cylinders.
2. Make sure that the work area is clear and safe and that no-one is close by or could cause distraction.
3. Protect other people from any possible noise and danger. Warn others to keep away, put barriers around the work area.



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OPERATORS

1. The relevant items of personal protective equipment (PPE) appropriate to the type of machine being used and the environment being worked in must be worn.
2. Anybody working close by will also need to wear appropriate personal protective equipment.

BATTERY AND CORDLESS EQUIPMENT

1. Check the equipment. If anything is found damaged, do not use it – contact the hire company.
2. Use only the correct batteries for the equipment as supplied by the hire company.
3. Use only the correct charger as supplied by the hire company and follow any instructions given.
4. Do not use a battery – powered tool while it is being recharged. The electrical circuits may be overloaded and the batteries may explode.
5. Charging should be carried out in a dry, cool, well – ventilated and safe location. Do not charge batteries where people are near.
6. Do not attempt to recharge ordinary batteries. They will explode!
7. If the equipment has a lock – off switch (perhaps on the battery box), switch it off before making adjustments or changing the work tool.
8. Check on how the equipment operates – before using it, know how it works.

USING THE EQUIPMENT

1. Wear the protective equipment including ear defenders, dust mask and goggles.
2. Use the residual current device (rcd) at the 230 volt socket when recharging batteries.
3. Toxic and flammable fumes are produced when charging some types of batteries. Wear gloves and goggles and make sure the area is ventilated.
4. Do not throw away old or leaking batteries – return them to the hire company.
5. Do not force the tool harder than it can work. It will damage the tool and batteries.
6. Stop work if someone approaches you.
7. Switch off before leaving the equipment unattended.
8. If the equipment does not work properly, do not attempt to repair it. Contact the hire company.

Keep this leaflet in a safe place until work is finished as it may need to be referred to again.

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