



BUILT FOR LIFE.™

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Safety Tips for Kids and Parents

When it's warm outside, our yard seems to be an extension of our home. It's important to review safety tips on the proper use of mowers and garden tools each year with your kids – and as a reminder to yourself – to insure everyone has a safe summer.

Think First, Then Reverse™

When you back your car out of a parking space or driveway, you automatically look behind you to make sure the path is clear. When you are operating a riding mower, the same rules apply. The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) changed the industry safety standard by prohibiting riding mowers manufactured after Sept. 1, 2004 to mow in reverse.

Troy-Bilt® created a temporary override system called operator-controlled reverse (OCR™), which abides by the new industry standard, allowing the mower to temporarily operate in reverse with the blades engaged. This two-step safety process allows the operator to go from normal mowing to reverse-caution mode when conditions permit. When the engine is off or the key is in the “normal mowing” mode, reverse mowing is always turned off. Mowing in reverse isn't recommended, but if you must, always look behind you before you begin. OCR is available on the “Big Red” garden tractor from Troy-Bilt.

Following are other important lawn mower safety tips Troy-Bilt has compiled in cooperation with the Consumer Product Safety Commission and other safety and health experts.

- Always read the owner's manual before operation.
- Keep hands and feet away from rotating parts and from under the machine.
- Wear eye protection. Always wear safety glasses or goggles during operation.
- Clear the mowing area of debris.
- Do not mow when children, pets and others are around.
- Never let children ride on the operator's lap or anywhere on the mower.
- Slow down before turning and use extra caution on slopes. Do not mow slopes greater than 15 degrees. For riding mowers, always mow up and down on a slope; NEVER mow across the slope on a riding mower. Mowing across a slope can cause the tractor to tip over. For walk-behind mowers, always mow across a slope, NEVER up and down.

Mowing up and down a slope with a walk-behind mower can cause the operator to slip and get caught under the mowing blade.

- Keep safety devices (discharge chute cover, safety interlocks, belt guards, etc.) in place and working. If damaged, replace immediately. Never remove or disable a safety device.
- Disengage blades when not mowing. Never cross gravel areas with the blades engaged. Avoid discharging material against a wall or obstruction; it may cause discharged material to ricochet back toward you.
- Handle gasoline with care. Use only an approved container. Extinguish cigarettes, cigars, pipes and other sources of ignition. Never fuel the mower indoors. If fuel is spilled on clothing, change clothing immediately. Let engine cool for at least two minutes before re-fueling.
- Know your machine before you mow. Make sure anyone who operates the mower understands and follows the safety and operating instructions in the owners manual and on the mower.

About Troy-Bilt

In 1937, Troy-Bilt introduced the first American-made rototiller. Troy-Bilt has expanded on its legendary expertise and durable product line to create a complete selection of the industry's finest lawn and garden tools. Troy-Bilt's award-winning product line includes top-quality tractors, mowers, tillers, cultivators, trimmers and a variety of outdoor power tools. Troy-Bilt machines are built to last and engineered to take on the toughest challenges to make jobs simpler and safer. For more information, visit www.troybilt.com.

Troy-Bilt is owned by MTD PRODUCTS INC, a leading global manufacturer of outdoor power equipment headquartered near Cleveland, Ohio. Additional MTD brands include Cub Cadet[®], Yard-Man[®], White Outdoor[®], Yard Machines[®] and Bolens[®]. Products can be found at home improvement stores, mass retailers, hardware stores, independent dealers and farm supply stores. For more information, visit www.mtdproducts.com.

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