

SAFE WORK PROCEDURES RAMMER (WACKER PACKER)



SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Only those persons who have been instructed in the safe use of and who are authorised to do so should operate a compacting rammer.
2. Operators should familiarise themselves with the operator's manual for the particular machine being used to ensure that they understand all safety precautions.

Sequence	Identified hazards	Key processes to be followed	Precautions / PPE required
1. General precautions	Hazardous atmosphere Fire, explosion Over-exertion/strain injury	Ensure adequate ventilation in area when using fuel-powered equipment. Allow engine to cool before refuelling – avoid spilling fuel on hot parts. Obtain assistance or use mechanical aids to lift machine into trenches, etc, or when unloading or loading off or on to vehicles.	Ensure good ventilation if using in deep excavations, trenches, etc. Lift machine only by the specified lifting points to prevent damage.
2. Pre-start checks	Loose parts	Inspect machine and tighten loose bolts or screws, and check bolts on footplate. Ensure that all guards and covers are fitted over moving parts of machine. Check operation of controls and switches, and ensure that fuel cap is secure. Stand 4-stroke models upright for 2 minutes before starting after being laid down.	Do not use if parts loose or missing. Don not use machine without guards. All controls must operate correctly.
3. Operation	Personal injury	Persons operating rammers should wear close fitting work clothing that will allow free movement, eye and foot protection, and hearing protection in enclosed areas. Shut off engine before attempting to adjust, clean or service machine. Do not alter engine speed – run engine only at speed specified by manufacturer. Do not operate engine unless air cleaner if fitted and clean. Use only correct fuel or fuel mixture to prevent damage to engine. Grasp handles at corners of handle when operating – use “loose” grip to reduce strass and vibration on hands, wrists and arms from machine. Always walk behind rammer, and allow machine to pull itself forward. Operate so that shoe hits ground flat for best compaction, and not on toe or heel. Reduce engine speed to SLOW if rammer needs to be lifted during operation.	Wear eye, hearing and foot protection. Do not adjust or clean when running. Operate machine only at speed set by manufacturer at factory. Ensure adequate supply of fuel. Do not try to overpower the rammer – machine is designed to “walk” forward. Do not stand in front of or pull rammer. Do not attempt to compact deep layers – shallow layers will compact better.
4. Cleaning and maintenance	Personal injury	Switch machine OFF and allow to cool before working on engine or drive train. Check engine cooling fins regularly and clean dust and debris with stiff brush. Check all bolts, screws and connections, and inspect cable and fuel lines. All repairs must be carried out by an authorised person or agent only.	Do not work on engine when hot. Clean regularly in dusty conditions. Use correct sized spanners, etc. Do not carry out unauthorised repairs.

PRECAUTIONS:

The following precautions are to be observed in areas where these procedures are carried out.

