

# **Atco Rotavator**

## **Safety Instructions**

**April 2014**

### **General**

- Be thoroughly familiar with the controls and the proper use of the rotavator. Know how to stop and disengage the controls quickly.
- Never allow children to operate the rotavator. Never allow adults to operate the rotavator without proper instructions.
- Keep the area of operation clear of all persons, particularly small children and pets.
- Of course, it is not possible or practical to warn you about all the hazards associated with operating or maintaining a rotavator/tiller. You must therefore, use your own good judgement.

### **Preparation**

- The rotavator tines can throw rocks and other objects with enough force to cause injury.
- Thoroughly inspect the area where the rotavator is going to be used and remove all foreign objects.
- Disengage all clutches, throttle levers into neutral before starting the engine.
- Do not operate the rotavator without wearing adequate outer garments. Always wear eye protection, trousers and adequate footwear that will improve footing on slippery surfaces.
- The rotating tines can/will cause injury. Keep away from the tines whenever the engine is running. If you need to adjust the tines or work on the unit for any reason, always stop the engine. Disconnect the spark plug cap if you need to clean or handle the tines.
- Handle fuel with extreme care, it is highly flammable.
- Never add fuel to a running or hot engine.
- Always fill the fuel tank outdoors, never indoors.
- Replace fuel cap securely and clean up spilled fuel before restarting the machine.
- Never attempt to make any adjustments while the engine is running.

### **Operation**

- Do not put hands or feet near or under rotating parts.
- Exercise extreme caution when operating on or crossing gravel drives, paths or roads.
- If you strike a foreign object, stop the engine, remove the wire to spark plug, and thoroughly inspect the rotavator for any damage. Repair the damage before restarting and operating the rotavator.
- Exercise extreme caution to avoid slipping or falling.
- If the rotavator should start to vibrate abnormally, stop the engine and check immediately for the cause. Vibration is generally a warning for trouble with the

rotavator, such as loose or damaged tilling tines, hidden objects in the soil, or the ground that is too hard to till.

- Take all possible precautions when leaving the machine unattended. Disengage the tines and stop the engine.
- Before cleaning, repairing or inspecting, shut off the engine and make certain all moving parts have stopped. Disconnect the spark plug wire and keep the wire away from the spark plug to prevent accidental starting.
- Do not run the engine indoors, exhaust fumes are dangerous.
- Never operate the rotavator without proper guards, plates or other safety protective devices in place.
- Always keep children and pets away from rotavator.
- Do not overload the rotavator capacity by attempting to till too deep too fast.
- Never operate the rotavator at high speeds on slippery surfaces.
- Never allow bystanders near the unit.
- Use only genuine factory attachments and accessories approved by the manufacturer of the rotavator.
- Never operate the rotavator without good visibility or light.
- Look around the engine for signs of oil or petrol leaks. Wipe up any spills before starting the engine.
- Be careful when using the rotavator in hard ground. The tines may catch in the ground and propel the rotavator forward. If this occurs, let go of the handlebars and do not restrain the machine, you may be injured.

### **Maintenance**

- Keep machine, attachments and accessories in safe working condition.
- Look for signs of damage to the tines. Replace any rotavator tines and parts that are worn out, bent, cracked, chipped or damaged in any way.
- Check that the debris shield is securely installed and in good condition.
- Check shear pins, engine mounting bolts and other bolts at frequent intervals for proper tightness to be sure the rotavator is in safe working condition.
- Check the air filter. A dirty air filter will restrict air flow to the carburettor, reducing engine and tilling performance.
- Check the throttle operation. The throttle must operate smoothly for good throttle control.
- Check the fuel level. Starting with a full tank will help to eliminate or reduce operating interruptions for refuelling.
- Never store the machine with fuel in the fuel tank inside a building where ignition sources are present, such as hot water and space heaters, clothes dryers, and alike. Allow the engine to cool down before storing in any enclosure.
- Always refer to these instructions for important details if the rotavator is to be stored for an extended period.