



SafetyAlert

We're Serious About Safety

Landscaping Safety

Landscaping employees are at risk of injury from a wide variety of potential hazards. Two of the more common causes of landscaping injuries are caused during the operation of common pieces of equipment, such as power lawn mowers and string trimmers.

Lawn Mowers

- Keep gasoline in an approved and properly labeled safety can with a spring-loaded and vented cap.
- Keep hands and feet away from the mower's blades.
- Never reach under the mower for any reason while the mower is in operation.
- Make all repairs and adjustments with the motor off.

String Trimmers

- Are a common cause of eye, hand and foot injuries. Eye injuries and lacerations and contusions to feet and legs are most common.
- Sensible use of the trimmer and wearing the appropriate personal protective equipment are easy ways to prevent injuries.
- Use the string trimmer only for weeds and grass, as they are not designed to trim shrubbery, climbing ivy, or other greenery not at ground level.
- To avoid being struck by debris, never remove the shield from the trimmer.

All Equipment

- Wear clothing such as trim fitting pants, shirts, and sturdy shoes.
- Wear hearing protection devices (ear muffs, ear plugs) that provide appropriate protection from noise produced by landscaping equipment.
- Use eye protection when mowing, trimming, power tilling, breaking up rocks, or concrete, and when applying chemicals.

Heat Illnesses

- OSHA offers tips for employees working in hot weather to prevent heat related deaths, illnesses, and injuries.
- OSHA standards mandate that it is the employer's obligation to provide drinking water to employees. More information about heat and sun hazards can be found on OSHA's website, and at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).



Landscaping Checklist

- Have employees been properly trained on equipment/job hazards and personal protective equipment?
- Is mandatory use of Personal Protective Equipment strictly and uniformly enforced?
- Does all equipment have the guards in place?
- Do all machines have a preventive maintenance program?
- Do employees use a sign off sheet to indicate they understand the equipment instructions?
- Is water provided to employees?

References:

[OSHA.gov/SLTC/landscaping/](https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/landscaping/)
[OSHA.gov](https://www.osha.gov)



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