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Using the Reversible Diesel Plate Compactor

- 1. Wear your protective equipment including ear defenders and safety boots.
2. The centrifugal clutch on reversible compactors stops the plate vibrating while the engine is idling. The throttle should be set to maximum when working.
3. Always grip the plate compactor correctly with two hand while working.
4. Watch for signs that vibration may be affecting hands. If fingers start to tingle or feel numb, take a short break from using the machine. Exercise fingers to encourage blood circulation.
5. To help prevent vibration affecting hands, operate the machine for shorter periods. Keep hands warm - wearing gloves may help do this. Do not operate the compactor for more than the recommended daily time.
6. Always keep hands, feet and clothing away from moving parts of the compactor.
7. This machine will move forward or backwards and can be manoeuvred easily while the plate is vibrating. Be careful not to strain yourself by trying to move it; get assistance or use appropriate lifting equipment.
8. When reversing take care not to: reverse over feet, trip over while walking backwards or trap yourself in a corner.
9. Some reversible plate compactors have a safety feature if the operator loses control and releases the handle when being used in reverse. The handle will swing up vertical and the compactor will change into forward motion, allowing the operator to recover control.
10. Do not try to force the compactor to move faster, allow it to travel at its own speed forward or reverse; this will vary depending on the surface being compacted.
11. If the surface to be compacted is sloping, take great care and only work up and down the slope and never across it.
12. If necessary attach a suitable piece of rope to a low point on the compactor chassis to enable an assistant to take part of the compactor's weight.
13. When the compactor is not being operated, stop the engine and turn off the fuel valve.
14. If the compactor has transport wheels ensure they are fixed properly to move the machine across the site.
15. If the compactor has to be left unattended for long periods, overnight for example, ensure it is safe from vandalism or theft.
16. If the equipment does not work properly do not attempt to repair it. Contact the hire company.

Please keep this leaflet safely as it may be required for future reference



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Reversible Diesel Plate Compactor

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 this entire leaflet BEFORE using the Reversible Diesel Plate Compactor

- 1. Plan work and think ahead to ensure work will always be carried out safely.
2. Diesel fuel is highly flammable. Take care not cause a fire or explosion.
3. The vibration from these machines may cause discomfort after prolonged use. Check the label on the machine or ask the hire company.
4. If using this compactor on the public highway it may need to be HAUC compliant; check with the hire company.
5. This reversible compactor is designed to compact crushed hardcore, backfill, asphalt and other materials on level surfaces or gentle slopes.
6. This plate compactor is heavy, it can cause injury or damage if it is not handled at all time in a careful and controlled way.
7. If you have not used a reversible plate compactor before, receive instruction or guidance before using it. Start work in a safe area until familiar with its use.
8. The following items of PPE (personal protective equipment) are the minimum required: Goggles, Dust Mask -minimum of FFP3 protection, Ear Muffs or plugs giving protection of 85 dB(A) at the ear; Safety Boots and Gloves.
9. This machine must not be used by minors or by anyone under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
10. The plate compactor is designed for operation by an able bodied adult. Anyone with either a temporary or permanent disability should seek expert medical advice before using the machine.



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- 1. Check the oil level has not fallen too low. This may automatically prevent the engine running.
2. The equipment should be on a level surface.
3. If the hire company has give specific starting instructions - follow them. If not follow these general guideline.
4. Put all fuel caps back on properly and move the fuel can to a safe, cool place.
5. Wipe any fuel off the machine. Dispose of the fuel soaked cloth carefully.
6. If any fuel is split on the ground, mop it up or cover it with soil.
7. If any fuel is split on clothes, change them immediately.
8. Ensure you understand all of the controls. Before starting the machine, know how to stop it.
9. Some or all of the accessories may be supplied as standard with the machine. Always grip the plate compactor correctly with two hands while working.
10. Vibration from using this plate compactor can be hazardous. Warm hands before starting work, and wear gloves to keep hands warm while working.
11. Ensure you understand all of the controls. Before starting the machine, know how to stop it.
12. When compacting asphalt or tarmac, use a water spray to prevent the surface sticking to the plate.
13. Some surfaces, like paving blocks, need a rubber mat fixed to the plate to protect the final surface. Check with the hire company.
14. An appropriate dust mask with a minimum of FFP3 must be worn when compacting material that causes dust.
15. Safety Boots must be worn when working with the plate compactor.
16. The following items of personal protective equipment (PPE) are the minimum that should be worn whenever using the plate compactor. Particular jobs or environment may require a higher level of protection.
17. The equipment is likely to cause noise levels up to 85 dB(A) - wear appropriate ear muffs or plugs giving hearing protection for this level as a minimum when operating the skip loader for long periods.
18. Goggles should always be worn when working with the machine.
19. An appropriate dust mask with a minimum of FFP3 must be worn when compacting material that causes dust.
20. Safety Boots must be worn when working with the plate compactor.



Before Starting Work...

Useful Reference Points • www.hae.org.uk/businessguard

- 1. Do not use the machine where there is a danger of explosion. It will ignite fumes from petrol or gas cylinders.
2. Using this equipment indoors or in confined spaces could cause fatal carbon monoxide poisoning. Never use it in domestic premises and only use it in other indoor situations if its suitability and the ventilation required has been fully assessed. Mechanical extraction ventilation will almost always be required. Ensure the area is clear and no-one is closely by who could cause distraction.
3. Warn others to keep away, erect barriers around the work area.
4. Check the machine, engine and all equipment. Do not use anything found to be damaged - contact the hire company.
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WORK AREA