

# String Trimmer Safety

**Overview:** String trimmers are one of the most widely used pieces of small equipment in lawn maintenance for both homeowners and professional businesses. Though you may have been using this device since you were a teenager, it never hurts to take a moment and remember the basic rules and checkpoints you should follow when using, or servicing a string trimmer.



## Proper Clothing and Safety Equipment:

- Wear long pants, or shin guards if you are wearing shorts
- Sturdy Boots – steel toed preferred
- Safety Glasses
- Hearing Protection
- Gloves
- Face Shield when cutting in multi-flora, thickets, or heavily obstructed areas



## Service and Maintenance:

- Always use the proper gas mix ratio.
- Store gasoline in an approved, properly labeled container. Use only gasoline approved for the engine.
- Move the string trimmer at least 10 feet from the fueling point before starting the engine.
- Do not smoke while filling the gas tank or operating the machine.
- Never start the engine in an enclosed space because carbon monoxide and fumes can be dangerous.
- Inspect trimmer to make sure it is in good working order, i.e., no loose or broken parts or leaks.
- Inspect the trimmer to be sure it is the right gauge of string for your trimmer and the job, follow guidelines on lubricating your equipment.





## Safety First!

- Know how your equipment is to be operated, review the instruction manual if necessary.
- Be aware of your surroundings and pay attention to where, when and who you are using the equipment around.
- Keep body parts away from the rotating head while the trimmer is turned on.
- Never remove any safety guards or shields; they are there for your protection.
- Never modify, or add accessories to your trimmer that are not specifically designed for it and your safety.
- Be aware if the area that you're trimming is wet or on a slope. Always be properly balanced and do not overreach.
- Use leg muscles to move the string trimmer rather than twisting.
- Always disconnect the spark plug before performing maintenance and safety checks.

