

# Staying Safe around Lawn Mowers



Gas-powered mowers may be the most dangerous tool regularly used around the home. They create hot exhaust fumes. Their blades spin 2,000 to 4,000 times per minute, so can turn small toys and garden debris into deadly missiles. Safe operating is a must!

## Before Mowing Tips

- Search the yard- look for small objects
- Pick up and dispose of yard debris

## Safe Operating Tips

- Keep children and pets inside or well away from area being mowed
- Do not allow passengers on mowers
- Mow across slopes when using a walk behind mower
- Mow up and down slopes when using a riding mower
- Mow dry grass, not wet
- Do not pull the mower backward or mow in reverse unless absolutely necessary
- Never point the discharge chute at anyone
- Never drive or push a running mower over gravel
- Never operate mower unless it is in sound operating condition
- Never mow after you hear thunder
- Protect yourself, wear sturdy shoes, jeans, ear protection and safety glasses



## Safe Servicing Tips

- Shut off engine before servicing
- Always fill the gas tank in well ventilated areas and only when the engine is cool
- Keep the engine free of oil spills, grass, and leaves
- Turn off a lawn mower and allow the blade to come to a complete stop before servicing



## When Can Youth Mow Safely?

- American Academy of Pediatrics recommend
  - Youth be at least 16 to operate riding lawn mowers
  - Youth be at least 12 to operate a walk-behind mower
- Assess child's level of maturity and sense of responsibility
- Questions to Ask
  - If using a riding mower, can the youth reach the necessary controls without moving from the seat?
  - If using a walk behind mower, does the youth have the physical strength to mow the yard without putting themselves at risk?
  - Has the youth been trained in proper operation of the mower, including fueling, starting, and trouble shooting?
  - Does the youth have safety as a top priority?
  - Has the youth observed safe lawn mowing behavior by an adult?



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