

Using Chain Saws

Chain saws are efficient and productive portable power tools. A chain saw can also be one of the most dangerous tools. It is essential to operate and maintain chain saws properly.



Before starting the chain saw:

- Check the controls, the chain tension, and all bolts and handles to ensure they are working properly and are adjusted correctly.
- Fuel the saw at least 10 feet from sources of ignition.

While running the chain saw:

- Use the right kind of personal protective equipment—head protection, hearing protection, eye/face protection, foot protection, and hand protection.
- Keep your hands on the handles and maintain a secure footing.
- Clear the area of obstacles that might interfere with cutting or with retreating (if necessary).
- Do not cut directly overhead.
- Shut off or release throttle before retreating.
- Shut off or engage the chain brake whenever you carry the saw more than 50 feet, or across hazardous terrain.
- Be prepared for kickback; use saws that reduce the danger from kickback (with chain brakes, low kickback chains, guide bars, etc.).

Tree Trimming Tips:

- Always assume that power lines are energized!
- Use extreme caution when moving ladders and other equipment near power lines.



- Assess the hazards of the work area before you start.
- Know where other people are located.
- Use the right kind of personal protective equipment.
- Have a retreat path so you can reach safety while a tree is falling.
- Be aware of broken or hanging branches, attached vines, or a dead tree that is leaning—these are hazards that can lead to injury.
- If you have to cut a dead tree, be careful—the top could break off.
- Never turn your back on a tree as it falls.