



Using the Plate Compactor

1. Wear protective equipment including dust mask, gloves, ear protection and safety boots.
2. If your fingers start to tingle from vibration, stop using the plate compactor and flex your hands and fingers to keep them warm and encourage circulation. Find out more about vibration. **Ask the hire company for a copy of the HAE leaflet no. 2150 – Hand-arm vibration or visit www.hse.gov.uk/vibration**
3. Ensure that the plate compactor is kept clean and dry.
4. This machine moves forward under its own traction and can be turned easily while the motor is running. Be careful not to strain yourself by moving it while the engine is not running.
5. The machine may be fitted with a reverse gear. When reversing, take care not to: a) reverse over feet; b) trip over walking backwards; c) trap yourself in a corner.
6. Stop the engine if leaving the machine unattended.
7. If the compactor has transport wheels make sure they are fixed properly before moving the machine.
8. If the equipment does not work properly do not attempt to repair it. Contact the hire company.
9. You may want to read this leaflet again. Please keep it safe until you finish work.



Hire Association Europe
2450 Regents Court
The Crescent
Birmingham Business Park
Solithull B37 7YE

Telephone: 44 (0) 121 380 4600
Fax: 44 (0) 121 333 4109
Email: mail@hae.org.uk
website: www.hae.org.uk

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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

1. It is important to read this entire leaflet before using the plate compactor.
2. Plan your work and think ahead to make sure you will always be working safely.
3. Petrol is highly flammable. Take care not to cause a fire or explosion.
4. This compactor is designed for compacting hardcore, or the final levelling of paving blocks or other surfaces. It is not designed for any other purpose.
5. The action of this plate compactor can cause injury or damage if the machine is not used in a careful and controlled way.
6. If you have not used a plate compactor before, familiarise yourself with the machine on some straightforward work before you start on the main task.
7. The following items of personal protective equipment are minimum requirement: goggles; dust mask- a minimum of FFP3 protection; ear muffs or plugs giving protection to reduce exposure to 87dB(A) at the ears; Safety boots; industrial quality gloves.
8. A personal first-aid kit should be available.
9. This machine must not be used by young persons, or by anyone under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
10. This plate compactor is designed for operation by an able-bodied adult. Anyone with either temporary or permanent disability must seek expert advice before using it.
11. Plate compactors are heavy machines, get help if you have to unload it from your vehicle. Do not lift beyond your own capabilities.



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1. If the hire company has supplied special instructions, follow them. Otherwise, follow the instructions given below. Position the plate compactor at the work position before starting the engine.
 2. Check the oil and fuel levels before trying to start the engine.
 3. Switch the ignition switch to the ON position.
 4. Check that the throttle lever is in the IDLE position.
 5. Do not wear gloves when starting the engine. Also, ensure there is no loose clothing or flapping sleeves that could get caught.
 6. Turn the fuel tap to the open position.
 7. Open the choke lever fully, when starting from cold.
 8. Grasp the pull cord firmly and pull upwards then guide the cord back to that it recoils correctly.
 9. If the engine is now running, shut the choke lever.
 10. Open the throttle lever to the RUN position.
 11. Allow the engine to run for a short period to warm up before attempting to commence compacting.
 12. To stop the engine turn the ignition switch to the OFF position and close the fuel supply tap.
- ### STARTING THE ENGINE
1. When compacting asphalt or tarmac, use a water spray to prevent the surface sticking to the plate.
 2. Some surfaces, like paving blocks, need a rubber mat fixed to the plate to protect the top surface. Seek advice from the hire company.
 3. If the plate compactor has transport wheels make sure they are safely stowed, also need to wear identical personal protective equipment.
 4. Safety boots must be worn.
 5. Industrial quality gloves must be worn.
 6. Anybody who is working close by will also need to wear identical personal protective equipment.
- ### PLATE COMPACTOR
1. Check the machine, engine, and all the controls. Before starting the machine, locate the off switch.
 2. Vibration from using this plate compactor can be hazardous. Warm hands up before starting work, and wear gloves to keep hands warm whilst working. Find out more about the effects of vibration - Ask the hire company for a copy of the HAE leaflet no. 2150 – Hand-arm vibration or visit www.hse.gov.uk/vibration
 3. Make sure that you understand all of the controls. Before starting the machine, locate the off switch.
 4. Always grip the plate compactor correctly with two hands while working.
 5. Be aware that the compactor may damage pipes or cables laid just beneath the surface.
 6. Clear the area of trip hazards e.g. rubble, rubbish etc.
 7. Be aware that the compactor may damage pipes or cables laid just beneath the surface.
- ### OPERATORS
1. The following items of personal protective equipment (PPE) are the minimum that should be worn whenever this machine is used. Particular jobs or environments may require a higher level of protection. Ensure there is no loose or flapping clothing that could get caught in the machinery.
 2. This equipment is likely to cause noise levels up to 107 dB(A) - wear appropriate ear muffs or plugs giving hearing protection for this level as a minimum. An appropriate dust mask (with a minimum of FFP3 protection) is required when you are compacting material that causes dust.
 3. Set up an exclusion zone around the area where the plate compactor is being used with physical barriers.
 4. Disturbance to the work area is clear and safe and that no-one is nearby to cause distractions.
 5. Work should stop immediately should anyone, other than those directly assisting with the work, enter the exclusion zone.
 6. Clear the area of trip hazards e.g. rubble, rubbish etc.
 7. Be aware that the compactor may damage pipes or cables laid just beneath the surface.
- ### ACCESSORIES
1. No smoking.
 2. Stop the engine and let it cool down.
 3. If possible move the machine away from the work area.
 4. Clean the filler cap and the area around it to prevent dirt falling into the fuel tank.
 5. Use a funnel and clean petrol when refuelling. Do not spill any fuel on yourself or the machine.
 6. Wipe any fuel off the machine. Dispose of fuel soaked cloth carefully.
 7. If small quantities of fuel are spilled on the ground, wipe it up or cover it with soil.
 8. If any fuel is spilled on your clothes, change them straight away.
 9. Put all fuel caps back on properly, and move the fuel can to a safe, cool place.
- ### REFUELLING
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- ### BEFORE STARTING WORK...
1. Do not use this machine where there is a danger of explosion. It will ignite fumes from petrol, or gas cylinders. Using this equipment indoors or in confined spaces could cause fatal carbon monoxide poisoning. Never 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.
 3. Ensure the work area is clear and safe and that no-one is nearby to cause distractions.
 4. Set up an exclusion zone around the area where the plate compactor is being used with physical barriers.
 5. Work should stop immediately should anyone, other than those directly assisting with the work, enter the exclusion zone.
 6. Clear the area of trip hazards e.g. rubble, rubbish etc.
 7. Be aware that the compactor may damage pipes or cables laid just beneath the surface.
- ### WORK AREA
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- ### USEFUL REFERENCE POINTS • www.hae.org.uk/businessguard



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