



# Using the Concrete Mixer

# Concrete Mixer

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. Wear protective equipment including ear protection, dust mask, goggles, gloves and safety boots/wellingtons.
2. The engine must be running all the time there is a mix in the drum.
3. Do not move the concrete mixer while the drum is full.
4. Stop the engine if leaving the machine unattended.
5. As soon as work is finished the mixer and especially the inside of the drum must be washed clean before the mix hardens.
6. If the equipment does not work properly do not attempt to repair it. Contact the hire company.
7. You may want to read this leaflet again. Please keep it safe until you finish work.

1. It is important to read this entire leaflet before you use the concrete mixer.
2. Plan your work and think ahead to make sure you will always be working safely.
3. Diesel is highly flammable. Take care not to cause a fire or explosion.
4. Cement mixes are harmful to eyes, lungs, and skin. Follow any instructions given by the manufacturers of these cement products.
5. This concrete mixer is designed for mixing concrete, mortar, plaster, and similar compounds with water. It can also mix composts and other similar materials. It is not designed for any other purpose.
6. The action of this mixer can cause injury or damage if the machine is not used in a careful and controlled way.
7. If you have not used a concrete mixer before, familiarise yourself with how the machine works before you start on the main task.
8. You must have at least the following items of personal protective equipment: goggles; dust mask - a minimum of FFP3(s) protection; ear muffs or plugs giving protection to reduce exposure to 87 dB(A) at the ear; Safety boots/wellingtons; industrial quality gloves.
9. A personal first-aid kit should be available.
10. This machine must not be used by young persons, or by anyone under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
11. This concrete mixer is designed for operation by an able bodied adult. Anyone with either temporary or permanent disability must seek expert advice before using it.
12. Concrete mixers 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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**STARTING**

1. This section describes the starting procedure for most Manual Start diesel engine mixers.
2. If the engine has an Electric Start the hire company will provide special instructions. If so follow them. Otherwise, follow the instructions given below.
3. Check the oil and fuel levels before trying to start the engine.
4. Move the STOP control to the RUN position.
5. Check that the throttle lever is in the IDLE position.
6. Do not wear gloves when starting the engine. Also, ensure there is no loose clothing or flapping sleeves that could get caught.
7. Fit the starting handle to the shaft, and check by turning it anti-clockwise that the ratchet mechanism works. Check also that the handle slides on and off the shaft easily.
8. Move the decompression valve lever into the decompression position.
9. If the engine is fitted with a cold start button, press it in when starting from cold.
10. Grasp the starting handle firmly in one hand - do not wrap your thumb around the handle, keep it on the same side as your fingers - this is very important. Your thumb could be broken if you wrap it around the handle, and the engine kicks back.
11. Crank the engine strongly before lowering the decompression lever smoothly. The engine should fire up. If it doesn't, go through the steps again from instruction 7 above.
12. Allow the engine to run for a short period to warm up before loading the mix.
13. To stop the engine return the STOP control to its original position.

**DRUM**

1. Always start the drum rotating before loading. Do not load a concrete mix into a stationary drum. Starting the mixer with a full drum would be difficult and could strain the machine. Particular jobs or environments should be worn whenever you use this equipment (PPE) are the minimum that must be worn when mixing materials that cause dust.
3. An appropriate dust mask (with a minimum of FFP3 protection) will be required to be worn when mixing materials that cause dust.
4. Safety boots/wellingtons must be worn.
5. Industrial quality gloves must be worn.
6. Mechanical extraction ventilation will almost always be required.
3. Make sure the work area is clear and safe and no other persons are close by to cause distraction.
4. Protect other people from the noise and dust. Set up an exclusion zone around the area where the concrete mixer is being used with physical barriers, barrier tape and signs. Keep children and animals away when using this equipment.
5. Work should stop immediately should anyone, other than those directly assisting with the work, enter the exclusion zone.

**CONCRETE MIXER**

1. Check the engine, mixer and drum, if anything is found to be damaged, do not use the concrete mixer - contact the hire company.
2. Check that the concrete mixer is sited firmly on a flat surface and safely close to the work area.
3. When the engine is started the drum will rotate and will not stop rotating until the engine is stopped.

**REFUELLING**

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 diesel 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 split on the ground, wipe it up or cover it with soil.
8. If any fuel is split on clothes, change them straight away.
9. Put all fuel caps back on properly, and move the fuel can to a safe, cool place.



## Before Starting Work...

## CEMENT MIXES AND CONTACT DERMATITIS

1. Wet cement mix is a substance that can cause contact dermatitis.
2. Contact dermatitis is a rash that may occur when the skin reacts to certain substances. The rash can vary but it is usually itchy and causes flaky skin and only occurs where the substance is in contact with the skin.
3. Wash cement or plaster mixes off your skin immediately. Thoroughly rinse eyes and seek medical advice without delay.
4. Mild dermatitis will heal providing there is no further contact. If the rash persists seek medical advice. Find out more about contact dermatitis - visit [www.bdcs.org.uk](http://www.bdcs.org.uk)
5. Gloves, long sleeves and full trousers must be worn to prevent the mixes coming into contact with bare skin.

## WORK AREA

1. Do not use this 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.
3. Mechanical extraction ventilation will almost always be required.
3. Make sure the work area is clear and safe and no other persons are close by to cause distraction.
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