For guidance on managing construction health risks go to
www.hse.gov.uk/construction

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Poker Vibrator

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.

It is important to read all of this leaflet BEFORE using the Poker Vibrator

1. Plan your work and think ahead to make sure you will always be working safely.
2. Electricity is dangerous and must always be used with great care.
3. Cement mixes are harmful to eyes, lungs and skin. Take precautions to prevent contact with cement mix.
4. This poker vibrator is designed for use in fresh concrete to remove air voids and speed the release of trapped water.
5. The action of this poker vibrator can cause injury or damage if the machine is not used in a careful and controlled way.
6. If you have not used this type of poker vibrator before, familiarise yourself with how the machine works before you start on the main task.
7. You must have at least the following items of personal protective equipment goggles: EN166 or BS2092; ear muffs or plugs giving protection for levels up to 93 dB(A); safety boots to EN345 or BS1870/4972; gloves; rcd if using a 230 volt (mains) supply.
8. This machine must not be used by minors, or by anyone under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
9. This poker vibrator is designed for operation by an able bodied adult. Anyone with either temporary or permanent disability must seek expert advice before using it.

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Using the Poker Vibrator

1. Wear your protective equipment including gloves, goggles and safety boots.
2. You may need to allow the unit to warm up for a few minutes in cold weather for maximum efficiency.
3. Watch out for signs that vibration may be affecting your hands. If your fingers start to tingle or feel nub, take a short break from using the machine. Exercise your fingers to encourage blood circulation.
4. To help prevent vibration affecting your hands, operate the machine or shorter periods, or share the job with a workmate. Keep your hands warm-wearing gloves may help do this.
5. Take care not to bend the flexible drive through tight angles, for example over shuttering.
6. Always move and withdraw the vibrating head steadily – this will help avoid creating voids.
7. Do not touch the vibrating part of the poker while it is in operation.
8. Do not lay the vibrating poker on a hard surface while it is still vibrating. It will cause damage to the surface and the poker.
9. Take care not to accidentally pull the plug from the socket.
10. Stop the unit and unplug it if leaving the machine unattended.
11. If you think the cable may be cut or damaged in any way, switch off and unplug at the socket before inspecting it. If the cable attached to the drive unit is damaged, stop using the machine. Contact the hire company. If an extension cable has been damaged, stop using the machine. Contact the hire company. If an extension cable has been damaged, do not use it again.
12. You must clean the poker vibrator as soon as you have finished work before any concrete on it goes hard.
13. If your equipment does not work properly do not attempt to repair it. Contact the hire company.

Please store this leaflet safely. It may be required for further information

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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. The rash occurs only where the substance was in contact with the skin.
3. Wash cement mixes off your skin immediately. Thoroughly rinse out your eyes and seek medical advice if you get any type of cement mix in them.
4. Mild dermatitis will heal providing there is no further contact. If the rash persists seek medical advice.

WORK AREA

1. Do not use this poker vibrator where there is a danger of explosion. It will ignite fumes from petrol, or gas cylinders.
2. Do not sue this poker vibrator where the drive unit might get wet.
3. Make sure that the area is clear and safe and that no-one is near to you or could distract you.
4. Plan your route and cable runs so that you can easily reach all of the concrete you need to work on.
5. Protect other people from the noise and wet cement. Warn others to keep away, put barriers around your work area.

OPERATORS

1. The following items of personal protective equipment (ppe) are the minimum that should be worn whenever you use this poker vibrator. Particular jobs or environments you may require a higher level of protection.
2. You must wear goggles (EN166 or BS2092) when you are working with this machine.
3. This equipment is likely to cause noise levels up to 93 dB(A) – wear appropriate ear mutts or plugs giving hearing protection for this level as a minimum.
4. You must wear safety boots (EN345 or BS1870/4972). Remember that you may have to stand in wet concrete.
5. Vibration from using this machine can be hazardous. Warm your hands up before you start work, and wear gloves to keep your hands warm while you are working.
6. You should wear gloves, long sleeves, and full trousers to prevent the mixes coming into contact with your bare skin.
7. Anybody who is working near to you will also need to wear appropriate personal protective equipment.

POKER VIBRATOR

1. Check your drive unit, flexible drive and couplings, and vibrating head. If anything is found damaged, do not use the poker vibrator – contact the hire company.
2. Units with a cylindrical yellow industrial plug fitted are designed to run off a special 110v supply. The hire company will have provided a portable transformer if ou need to power the machine rom a normal mains 230v supply. If a portable transformer has been supplied, take care not to injure yourself when moving it about – it may be heavier than you think. Units designed' to run directly from 230v mains will have either a normal square pin plug fitted, or a blue industrial plug.
3. If your machine has a shoulder strap, check that the fastenings are in good condition, and then adjust the strap so that it comfortably takes the weight of the drive unit.
4. Check on how the on/off switch operates – before you switch the poker vibrator on, you must know how to stop it.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY

Your machine will only operate on one voltage: it will be 110v or 230v. 110v machines will have a yellow industrial plug fitted. 230v machines will have either a normal square pin plug fitted, or a blue industrial plug. Read the instructions below for your machine.

110 VOLT MACHINES (YELLOW PLUG)

1. If you are using a portable transformer, plug the transformer directly into the 230v volt socket. Do not use any 230v extension cables.
2. If you need to use an extension cable, follow any special instructions, you should only use a suitably rated heavy duty 110v extension cable, not longer than 50 metres (160 feet). You must only use an extension cable between the transformer and the machine.
3. Lay the extension cable out carefully avoiding liquids, sharp edges, doorways or windows where it might be trapped, and places where vehicles might run over it. Unroll it fully or it will overheat and could catch fire.
4. Make sure that any extension cable connections are dry and safe.

230 VOLT MACHINES (SQUARE PIN OR BLUE PLUG)

1. Use a residual current device ("rcd") plugged directly in to the 230volt socket. Plug your machine into the rcd. This will help to protect you against electric shock if the cable or machine get damaged.
2. Use the "TEST" button to check that the rcd is working each time you use it. Reset the rcd according to the instructions supplied with it.
3. If you need an extension cable, follow any special instructions given by the hire company. If the hire company have not given any special instructions, you should only use a suitably rated heavy duty one, not longer than 50 metres (160 feet). Plug it directly into the rcd.
4. Lay it out carefully avoiding liquids, sharp edges, doorways or windows where it might be trapped, and places where vehicles might run over it. Unroll it fully or it will overheat and could catch fire.
5. Make sure that any extension cable connections are dry and safe

Before Starting Work...

Useful Reference Points • www.hae.org.uk/businessguard