

# Lawnmower Safety

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, there were an estimated 35,000 injuries related to lawnmower incidents. Children under 12 are especially at risk. By practicing safe mowing techniques, you can reduce the risks to yourself and others.



## Mowing Requires Knowing

### Before

- Read manufacturer's instructions
- Check the weather and avoid mowing during or after a storm.
- Remove objects on the lawn (rocks, sticks, etc.) that could become projectiles or damage the mower.
- Make sure safety devices are in place.
- Apply sunscreen
- Wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes

### During

- Keep children away when mowing.
- Never leave a running mower unattended.
- Know which way to mow on an incline.
  - Riding Mower: Avoid rollovers by driving up/down the slope.
  - Push Mower: Mow across the slope to reduce the risk of blade contact. (i.e. sliding down the hill).

### After

- Allow a mower to cool before refueling.
- Keep a mower away from buildings and covered areas until completely cooled.
- Make sure the mower is turned off and blades are completely stopped before beginning maintenance.

## Electric Mowers

- Avoid cutting wet grass, it can pose an electrical shock danger.
- Check the battery, especially during hot weather. Batteries can overheat.
- Disconnect the power source before cleaning.

## Riding Mowers

- Do not allow extra riders on a mower (even if you are not mowing).
- Drive slowly, especially on turns and slopes to avoid rollovers.
- Always look behind you when backing.

## Keeping Kids Safe

- Children younger than 12 should be kept away from lawnmowers.
- By 12 years old, a child can use a push mower.
- By 16 years of age, you can allow a child to operate a riding mower.

### Never ...

- ride with a child on a lawnmower.
- allow a child to play outside while a lawnmower is in use.
- mow in reverse.

During the mowing season, it is critical to be aware of mower safety. You can ensure that your mowing experiences are safe by wearing appropriate clothing, preparing properly, and remaining aware of your surroundings.

