



Know before you mow

When you mow

- Make sure children and pets are supervised indoors, or that they are at a safe distance well away from the area you plan to mow. Remain aware of where children are at all times.
- Protect yourself by wearing closed-toe shoes and long pants.
- Always look carefully and stop the blades when backing up.
- Pick up stones, toys and debris from the lawn to prevent flying objects.
- Read and understand the owner's manual, and pay particular attention to safety procedures. Check that your mower is in good working order.
- Never leave a running mower unattended.

Safety for younger kids

Most injuries occur in children ages 6 and younger.

- Children should stay in the house and under the supervision of another adult while a lawn mower is in use. The best way to stay safe is to steer clear.
- Talk to children about the dangers of lawn mowers. Kids need to know they are “revolving knives” and never to approach one that’s running.
- Never let children ride on a lawn mower, even when it’s not moving. Many injuries occur when children slide off and fall under the mower blades.

Safety for older kids

Before learning how to mow the lawn, children should demonstrate the maturity, good judgment, strength and coordination the job requires. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends the following age guidelines:

- Children should be at least 12 years of age to operate a push mower.
- Children should be at least 16 years of age to operate a riding mower.

Source: *The American Academy of Pediatrics*

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Each year, more than 9,000 children are treated in emergency departments and hospitals for injuries related to lawn mowers. These injuries are devastating, and they are 100 percent preventable.

Children younger than 15 have the most mower accidents of any age group. Most are caused by the unsafe use of mowers rather than a mechanical malfunction. Almost all of these injuries occur while a parent or relative is driving the lawn mower.

NEVER



take a child as a passenger on a riding mower.



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