

# Yardwork

Ensure your spruce-up is disaster-free by following these tips.

## Yardwork

- Limber up. Yard chores may seem easy, but they involve muscles you probably have not used in a while.
- Always wear protective clothing when you handle pesticides and fertilizers.
- At least 55,000 people each year sustain injuries from trimmers, lawn edgers, pruners and power saws. Read the manufacturer's instructions carefully before using the tools and follow their protective equipment recommendations.
- Inspect the product for damage and don't use it if there are problems.
- Make sure blade guards are in place on all cutting equipment.
- Don't let tools get wet unless they are labeled "immersible".
- Unplug all tools when not in use and make sure the tool is in the "off" position before you plug it in.
- Store gasoline-powered equipment away from anything that uses a pilot light.
- Make sure you use the right saw for the task, and always wait for the saw blade to stop before pulling away from a cut to avoid kickback.
- Before you do any "hands on" weed removal, make sure you know how to identify poison ivy, sumac, oak and similar toxic plants. Find out ahead of time how to treat the rashes they cause to reduce irritation.

## Lawn Mowers

More than 60,000 people visit hospitals each year for lawn mower related injuries.

- Clear the yard of any stones and loose debris that may fling into the air.
- Wait for grass to dry before mowing. Wet grass might make you slip or clog the mower chute.
- Clear a clogged chute using a stick with the mower off. Never use your hands.
- With a riding mower, mow up and down the slope so you are less likely to tip.
- Never leave a running mower unattended.
- Keep kids and pets away while mowing.
- Never refuel a hot mower and do not spill gasoline on a hot engine.
- Never mow in bare feet or sandals. Wear heavy-duty shoes with non-slip soles.
- Avoid wearing loose clothing that could get caught in the machine.
- Never start a mower indoors.

## Related Safety Tips Topic:

- Ladders & Tools