

# Lawn Mower Safety

While lawn mower maintenance may not be the first thing that springs to mind when considering home safety tips, the "US Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates approximately 60,000 lawnmower related accidents happen every year. If you need to be convinced of the importance of lawn mower maintenance, consider all the potentials for mishap. You've got combustible fuel, spinning blades and high RPMs all tied together in one package. Exercising a little lawn mower maintenance can keep you from showing up at the hospital with missing toes or unsightly burns.

Of utmost importance is following general gasoline safety guidelines. Don't smoke while you're filling up the tank on your gas powered mower. Don't use your mouth to siphon gas through a garden hose into your lawn mower

The part of your mower that is going to see the most action is the blades. So, the most routine part of your lawn mower maintenance is going to concern caring for the blades. Every time you mow your yard, allow the engine to cool and clean the mulch debris from the blades. Typically, this can be achieved by raising the mower up and spraying the area with a hose. If you have a riding mower, you'll have to maneuver yourself into position underneath the mower. ALWAYS make sure the engine is off if you have to reach near the blades with your fingers. In fact, you can even disconnect the spark plug, just to be sure. In fact, always remove the spark plug when doing any sort of lawn mower maintenance, just for the sake of keeping your fingers.

To prevent dulling, you should periodically have your blades sharpened at a lawn mower maintenance/ repair shop. If you notice anything visibly wrong with the blades, such as missing chunks, bent sections or anything that looks like it might fly off and give you an unwanted haircut, have them replaced. To prevent damage to the blades in the first place, remove all rocks and twigs from your yard before mowing. You might call this preventive lawn mower maintenance. If you keep it from breaking in the first place, you'll save yourself the hassle of fixing it. Additionally, those rocks and twigs easily become missiles, and they have the oddest attraction to eyeballs. So wear safety glasses while you're mowing. You should also consider wearing hearing protection.

Lastly, don't forget the motor. The same basic care you show your car is applicable to your lawn mower engine. Frequent oil and filter changes will prevent the engine from seizing up. The same goes for spark plugs and air filters. While these may not necessarily seem like home safety tips for dealing with your lawn mower, consider the idea that any rotating device that isn't in good repair is a potential hazard. This holds doubly true for the lawn mower, which places rotating cutting devices in close proximity to your body.