



The Importance of Lawn Mower Safety

Shriners Hospitals Wants Kids to Stay Safe

Shriners Hospitals for Children® is committed to helping keep kids safe, and injury-free.

Although they may seem like a common household tool, lawn mowers are one of the most dangerous items in our homes. Thousands of people are hurt while using lawnmowers each year – these injuries can include deep cuts; loss of fingers, toes, and even limbs; burns and broken bones. However, many lawn mower-related injuries can be prevented by following some safety guidelines.

Lawnmower Usage Safety Tips

Keep Children Safe

- Children under 6 years of age should be kept indoors during mowing.
- Make sure children are a safe distance away from the area you plan to mow because rocks and debris often can shoot out while the lawn mower is running.
- Keep a close eye on children when a lawn mower is in use. Make sure they do not run into the mower's path.
- Never allow children to play with the mower, even when it is turned off. A lawn mower is not a toy.
- Children should be at least 12 years old before operating a walk-behind lawn mower and at least 16 years old to operate a riding mower.
- Never allow children or any other passengers on a riding lawn mower because of the potential for falling under the mower and sustaining serious injuries.

Weather and Terrain

- Do not cut grass when it's wet because it can cause your feet to lose traction and slide.
- Do not use a mower on hills or slopes, to avoid having it tip over and cause injury.

Prior to Mowing

- Read your mower's instruction manual and familiarize yourself with the product prior to use.
- Use a mower with a control that stops it from moving forward if the handle is released.
- Clear your lawn of items such as nails, sticks, rocks, toys, sports entertainment, dog bones, wire and equipment parts, so the debris does not cause damage or hurt anyone.

During Usage

- Wear close-fitting long pants and long-sleeved shirts, eye protection and heavy gloves.
- Do not wear sandals or be barefoot. Wear sturdy shoes with good traction.
- Do not wear jewelry.
- Always fill and start lawn mowers outdoors.
- Never fill the tank with gasoline when the lawn mower is on or hot.
- Do not remove safety devices or guards on switches.
- Never reach underneath a mower because the blade remains engaged even when it is shut off.
- Do not mow in reverse unless absolutely necessary.
- To remove debris from mower use a stick or broom handle, not your hands.
- Always shut off the engine before leaving the mower unattended.
- Stay away from the engine cowling, as it can become very hot and burn unprotected flesh.
- Wait for blades to stop completely before crossing gravel roads, unclogging the chute, or removing the grass catcher.

To learn more, watch our animated educational video about lawn mower safety, available for viewing on our YouTube channel, [youtube.com/shrinershospitals](https://www.youtube.com/shrinershospitals), and share with your friends and family. In the video, Fezzy, our cute and cuddly Love to the rescue® ambassador and mascot, shares tips on lawn mower safety in a fun and engaging film for all ages.

Should an injury occur, the physicians and staff of Shriners Hospitals are here to help. For patient referral information, please call 800-237-5055 in the U.S. or 800-361-7256 in Canada. Both lines are staffed weekdays between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., EST.



OSOCT16TIOL

