



Excavators - Safety Instructions

The operator must read these instructions before starting the excavator.

1. The excavator must be operated correctly according to the manufacturer or owner's operating instructions, which are available on request if required.
2. The driver should be properly trained in the safe operation of excavators.
3. It is a requirement of the law that operators must be over the age of 18 years.
4. Wear personal protective equipment as conditions determine. A hardhat and boots with steel toecaps are usually necessary. Wear a dust mask in dusty conditions. Dust generated by the excavation can give rise to silicosis.
5. Carry out service checks and adjustments at the start of each working day with the engine shutdown and the boom lowered to the ground.
6. **DO NOT** work under the excavator when it is jacked up on its boom (or blade).
7. **CHECK** that all guards and covers are secure before starting. **NEVER** operate the excavator with missing guards or covers.
8. Only use buckets and attachments supplied by the hire company and operate them according to the manufacturer's instructions, which are available on request if required.
9. **CHECK** that all persons and animals are clear of the work area before starting and at all times during the work.
10. Before starting check for the presence of underground cables and pipes and/or seek advice if necessary. **DO NOT** use the excavator to dig directly above these services, only use hand tools.
11. Only start and operate the machine when sitting in the seat.
12. Before starting to work lower the stabilisers /dozer blade to the ground to give stability.
14. Familiarise yourself with the controls in an open space before starting work. **WARNING, the track drive controls are reversed when facing backwards.**
15. **DO NOT** use maximum engine speed until completely familiar with all controls.
16. **DO NOT** carry passengers on the excavator.
17. **DO NOT** use the excavator beneath overhead electric cables unless there is adequate



clearance with the boom in its highest position.

18. If trenches are to be excavated then it is likely that these will need support if they are more than 1.2 metres deep.
19. **DO NOT** force the excavator beyond its capacity. This can cause the machine to become unstable.
20. Take care when operating in the fully offset position; the machine is less stable.
21. Extreme care should be taken when operating across a slope. Travel straight up and down if possible and keep the bucket as low as possible.
22. **DO NOT** move forward over a trench when digging, always move back and away from it.
23. When loading another vehicle, the driver of that vehicle should dismount and stand well clear.
24. **DO NOT** use a bucket to drive in posts or piles etc.
25. **DO NOT** stand or work under a raised boom.
26. **DO NOT** travel with the boom and dipper raised and extended. Always fold tight into the machine.
27. **DO NOT** cross kerbs and other obstructions at an angle. Keep the bucket as low as possible.

Diesel Engine

28. **DO NOT** smoke when refuelling. Never refuel with the engine running.
29. Replace the fuel caps securely on the engine and fuel container. Wipe up any spillage immediately.
30. Fuel containers should be in good condition and leak proof.
31. **DO NOT** use the excavator in a hazardous or explosive atmosphere, or where fuel has been spilt.
32. **DO NOT** operate the excavator in a badly ventilated area or where exhaust fumes can build up. If the machine has to be used in an enclosed area, ducting should be used to discharge exhaust fumes to a safe place.



33. In the event of a leak of fuel or oil developing, switch the machine off immediately.
34. If warning lights show or gauges register outside normal limits, switch off the engine.
35. **DO NOT** top up with coolant while the engine is running. Allow the radiator to cool before removing the radiator cap and topping up.
36. When noise levels are uncomfortably high at 85-89 dB(A), it is advisable to wear hearing protectors.
37. At still higher noise levels, (90 dB(A) and above) the law requires that hearing protectors must be worn.
38. Before stopping the engine and leaving the seat, lower the bucket (and blade) to the ground.
39. **DO NOT** attempt repairs. Contact Cornes Mini Digger Hire.

These notes are for guidance only and all equipment must be correctly operated according to the manufacturer's operating instruction.