For guidance on managing construction health risks go to
www.hse.gov.uk/construction

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Light/Medium Breakers

The rules and procedures in force where people are at work may require the person responsible for this equipment to carry out a specific risk assessment.

It is important to read all of this leaflet

BEFORE you use the Breaker

1. Electricity is dangerous and must always be used with great care.
2. Plan your work and think ahead to make sure you will always be working safely.
3. The breaker is designed for brick raking, chase cutting, scaling, Light overhead breaking, removing plaster, tamping and similar jobs, using the appropriate tools.
4. The action of the breaker can cause injury or damage if the machine is not used in a careful and controlled way.
5. If you have not used a breaker before, familiarise yourself with the machine on some straightforward work before you start on the main task.
6. The following items of personal protective equipment must be worn as a minimum: goggles;dust mask - a minimum of FFP3(s) protection; ear muffs or plugs giving protection for levels up to 80 dB(A): Safety boots; gloves; rcd if using a 230 volt (mains) supply.
7. The machine must not be used by minors, or by anyone under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
8. The breaker is designed for operation by an able bodied adult. Anyone with either temporary or permanent disability must seek expert advice before using it.

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WORK AREA

1. Do not use this breaker where there is a danger of explosion. It will ignite fumes from petrol, or gas cylinders.
2. Make sure that the area is clear and safe and that no-one is close-by or could cause distraction.
3. Protect other people from the noise, debris and dust. Warn others to keep away, put barriers around the work area.
4. Check that there are no hidden electric cables, gas or water pipes where work is being carried out.
5. Breaking brick and masonry makes a large amount of dust and debris - cover any surfaces or objects that may be damaged, or difficult to clean.
6. If you are breaking through a wall, ensure that the rubble that will fall the other side will not cause injury or damage.

OPERATORS

1. The following items of personal protective equipment (ppe) are the minimum that should be worn whenever using this machine. Particular jobs or environments may require a higher level of protection.
2. Impact resistant goggles must be worn when you are working with this machine.
3. This equipment is likely to cause noise levels up to 80 dB(A) - wear appropriate ear muffs or plugs giving hearing protection for this level as a minimum.
4. An appropriate dustmask (with a minimum of FFP3(s) protection) must be worn when breaking material that causes dust.
5. Safety boots must be worn at all times.
6. Anyone who is working close-by will also need to wear the appropriate personal protective equipment.

BREAKER

1. Check the machine, cables, plugs and tool bits. If anything is found to be damaged, do not use the breaker contact the hire company.
2. Check the plug on the machine matches the supply. Do not try to force connections or improvise them.
3. Machines with a cylindrical yellow industrial plug fitted are designed to run off a special 110v supply. The hire company will have provided a portable transformer if needed for the machine to be powered from a normal mains 230v supply. If a portable transformer has been supplied, take care not to injure yourself when moving it about - it may be heavier than you think. Machines designed to run directly from 230v mains will have either a normal square pin plug fitted, or a blue industrial plug.
4. Always use the side handle provided. Adjust it to the best position.
5. Vibration from using this breaker can be hazardous. Warm up hands before starting work, and wear gloves to keep hands warm while working. **Ask the hire company for a copy of the HAE leaflet no. 2150 – Hand-arm vibration or visit www.hse.gov.uk/vibration**
6. Check how the on/off switch operates - before switching on the breaker , know how to stop it.

TOOL BITS

1. Switch the breaker off, and unplug it before changing the tool bit.
2. The tool shank should be clean and lightly oiled before insertion into the breaker.
3. Only use the correct tool bits specifically for this breaker must be used. Do not use any other tool bits.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY

The machine will only operate on one voltage: it will be 110v or 230v. 110v machines will have a yellow industrial plug fitted. 230v machines will have either a normal square pin plug fitted, or a blue industrial plug.

Read the instructions below for this machine.

110 VOLT MACHINES (YELLOW PLUG)

1. If using a portable transformer, plug the transformer directly into the 230 volt socket. Do not use any 230v extension cables.
2. If an extension cable is required, follow any special instructions given by the hire company. If the hire company have not given any special instructions, only use a suitably rated heavy duty 110v extension cable, not longer than 50 metres (160 feet). Plug it directly into the rcd

3. Lay it out carefully avoiding liquids, sharp edges, doorways or windows where it might be trapped, and places where vehicles might run over it. Unroll it fully or it will overheat and could catch fire.
4. Make sure that any extension cable connections are dry and safe.

230 VOLT MACHINES (SQUARE PIN OR BLUE PLUG)

1. Use a residual current device ("rcd") plugged directly in to the 230volt socket. Plug the machine into the rcd. This will help to protect against electric shock if the cable or machine get damaged.

2. Use the "TEST" button to check that the rcd is working each time it is used. Reset the rcd according to the instructions supplied with it.
3. If an extension cable is required, follow any special instructions given by the hire company. If the hire company have not given any special instructions, only use a suitably rated heavy duty one, not longer than 50 metres (160 feet). Plug it directly into the rcd

5. Lay it out carefully avoiding liquids, sharp edges, doorways or windows where it might be trapped, and places where vehicles might run over it. Unroll it fully or it will overheat and could catch fire.
6. Make sure that any extension cable connections are dry and safe.

Before Starting Work...

Useful Reference Points • www.hae.org.uk/businessguard

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Using the Breaker

1. Wear protective equipment including ear defenders and goggles.
2. Keep the cable clear of the tool bit and any sharp edges on your work.
3. Watch out for signs that vibration may be affecting hands. If fingers start to tingle or feel numb, take a short break from using the breaker. Exercise fingers to encourage blood circulation. **Ask the hire company for a copy of the HAE leaflet no. 2150 – Hand-arm vibration or visit www.hse.gov.uk/vibration**
4. To help prevent vibration affecting hands, operate the machine for shorter periods. Keep hands warm - wearing gloves may help do this.
5. If the cable appears to be cut or damaged in any way, switch off and unplug at the mains before inspecting it. If the cable attached to the breaker is damaged, stop using the machine. Contact the hire company.

   If an extension cable has been damaged, do not use it again.
6. Take care not to accidentally pull the plug from the socket.
7. Switch off and remove the plug from the socket before leaving the breaker unattended.
8. If the equipment does not work properly do not attempt to repair it. Contact the hire company.

Keep this leaflet safely as it may be required for reference at a future date