

## Electric Mowers

There are far more accidents and injuries caused each year by using an electric mower than with any other gardening instrument. Most of these are caused through carelessness - by not checking the condition of the cable prior to use and by cutting through it which can cause an electric shock and can be fatal.

When buying an electric lawn mower, follow the manufacturer's guidelines to the letter. Make sure that you keep the connections, plug, cable and the mower itself well maintained before each use. You should always buy a mower that has an RCD (residual current device) fitted as this will protect you should you inadvertently cut through a cable and will cut off the electricity supply immediately.

Keep your hands and feet well away from the blades and ensure that the blades have completely stopped rotating and you have disconnected the power supply before you go anywhere near the blades. For example, if you want to clean the blades of clogged grass after you've finished mowing.

Follow the general safety guidelines as indicated above and wear appropriate footwear, goggles and it may also be a good idea to wear a pair of ear defenders as some of the more powerful electric or petrol driven mowers can be very noisy and can damage your hearing over time if you're ears are not protected.

If the mower strikes a foreign object, turn the mower off immediately, disconnect the power supply and make sure the blades have stopped rotating before checking for any damage.



Finally, whatever type of mower you use, always clean it after use, store it in a safe place and keep it well maintained.