



Eye on Safety

Yard Work Safety

Itching to get the yard into shape for the summer? Always wear protective clothing when you handle pesticides and fertilizers. Before you do any "hands on" weed removal, be sure you know how to identify poison ivy, sumac, oak and similar toxic plants. Find out ahead of time how to treat the rashes they cause to reduce the irritation. Here are more ways to help ensure your spring spruce-up is disaster-free.

Lawn Mowers

More than 60,000 people are treated in emergency rooms each year for lawn-mower injuries.

- Rake before you mow to prevent any stones and loose debris from launching into the air
- Never operate a mower in your bare feet and avoid wearing loose clothing.
- Never start a mower indoors.
- Refueling your mower, make sure the engine is off and cool. Don't spill gasoline on a hot engine – and DON'T SMOKE while pouring gasoline.
- Never leave your mower unattended.
- Don't use electrical mowers on wet grass.

Lawn Equipment

At least 55,000 people each year sustain injuries from trimmers, lawn edgers, pruners and power saws.

- Read the manufacturer's instructions carefully before using the tools.
 - Inspect the product for damage and don't use it if there are problems.
 - Use proper eye protection.
 - Make sure blade guards are in place on all cutting equipment.
 - Don't let tools get wet unless they are labeled "immersible."
 - Unplug all tools when not in use.
 - Make sure the tool is in the "off" position before you plug it in.
 - Store gasoline-powered equipment away from anything that uses a pilot light.
 - Make sure you use the right saw for the task and always wait for the saw blade to stop before pulling away from a cut to avoid kickback.
 - When pruning trees, be careful not to let metal ladders or trimmers contact overhead wires.
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Learn more about the Secretary's Office of Safety [here](#) or by scanning the QR code below.

