



Lawn Mower Safety

Everything you need to know to keep your kids safe around lawn mowers.

When the lawn begins to green up in the spring, it means it's time to mow. Every summer, 30 million power lawn mowers are in use in the United States and it's important to make sure children are kept safe when we are working in our yards. Each year, 9,000 children visit emergency rooms due to lawn mower injuries. A few simple precautions may help you enjoy your time spent outdoors, and help make sure the whole family is safe.



- » Children under 16 years old should not be allowed to use ride-on mowers. Children under 12 years old should not use walk-behind mowers.
- » Only use a mower with a control that stops the mower blade from moving if the handle is let go.
- » Make sure that sturdy shoes are worn while mowing. No bare feet, open-toed shoes or flip flops.
- » Prevent injuries from flying objects, such as stones, sticks or toys, by picking up objects from the lawn before mowing begins. Have anyone who uses a mower wear eye and ear protection.
- » Do not pull the mower backward or mow in reverse unless absolutely necessary, and carefully look for children behind you when you mow in reverse.
- » Always turn off the mower and wait for the blades to stop completely before removing the grass catcher, unclogging the discharge chute or crossing gravel paths, roads, or other areas.
- » Do not allow children to ride as passengers on ride-on mowers.
- » Only use lawn equipment during adequate daylight hours, not at twilight.
- » Drive up and down slopes not across to prevent mower rollover.
- » Keep guards, shields, switches, and safety devices in proper working order at all times.
- » If children must be in the vicinity of running lawn mowers they should wear protective eye wear at all times.
- » Lawn mower injuries to children are often extremely traumatic and can include amputation, death and emotional distress that can last a lifetime.



Source: American Academy of Pediatrics

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