

Lawn Mower Safety

The American Academy of Pediatrics suggests that children be at least 12 years of age before they use a walk-behind power mower and 16 years of age to use a riding lawn mower. When they are old enough, teach your child how to safely use a lawn mower, and watch them until you are sure they can manage the task alone.

What can I do to try and make lawn mowing safer?

- ☑ **Do** read the lawn mower manual and the instructions on the mower.
- ☑ **Do** verify the grass catcher, all protective guards and safety equipment are in the correct place and your mower is in good repair.
- ☑ **Do** make sure children are indoors or a safe distance away from the area you are mowing.
- ☑ **Do** wear durable closed-toe shoes and close-fitting clothes, safety goggles and hearing protection are also recommended.
- ☑ **Do** clear the mowing area of objects such as twigs, stones and toys.
- ☑ **Do** stop mower and wait for blades to stop before looking at a lawn mower to fix it.
- ☑ **Do** use care when going around corners, trees or anything that may block your view.
- ☑ **Do** use caution when mowing a slope, to avoid slipping under the mower and into blades and avoid tipping over.



What should I avoid when mowing the lawn?

- ✗ **Do not** let children ride with you on a riding lawn mower or tractors.
- ✗ **Do not** use a damaged mower until it has been repaired.
- ✗ **Do not** mow while grass is wet, during poor lighting or during bad weather, such as a thunderstorm.
- ✗ **Do not** pull the mower backwards or mow in reverse if you can avoid it. If you must mow in reverse, look for children behind you.
- ✗ **Do not** cross gravel paths, roads or other areas with mower on.
- ✗ **Do not** remove safety equipment on mower.
- ✗ **Do not** use alcohol while operating a mower or riding lawn mower.

Reference: American Academy of Pediatrics. *Mowing the lawn can be a dangerous chore*. June 2012. Accessed Nov 11, 2012 from <http://www.aap.org/en-us/about-the-aap/aap-press-room/Pages/Mowing-the-Lawn-Can-Be-a-Dangerous-Chore.aspx> .

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