



Safe Work Practice No.2

September 2002

Power Sweepers

- Only qualified roofers trained in the operation of a power roof sweeper shall operate this machinery.
- Power sweepers shall be operated and maintained in accordance with the equipment manufacturer's instructions. A qualified mechanic shall repair or replace damaged sweeper components prior to its use.
- Hoist the sweeper to roof level by attaching the lifting cables to the sweeper's lifting lugs.
- Be certain all safety guards, shields and pins are secure and locked in place before starting the engine.
- Do not operate the power sweeper if safety devices are not in proper working order.
- Never operate a sweeper with improperly adjusted controls.
- Do not attempt to disable or modify sweeper controls or the "anti-reverse device", as serious injury may result.
- Do not attempt to over-ride the "dead man" safety controls. Creeping could result in the machine going over the unguarded roof edge.
- Do not attempt to adjust sweeper controls while the engine is in operation.
- Never engage the brush without the sweepers drive wheels in operation. Failure to do so may result in the backward movement of the sweeper, which could result in severe injury or fall.
- Never reach into the brush area when the engine is operating, keep hands and feet away from brush and drive belts.
- Use manufacturer's recommended replacement brush assembly only.
- Wear personal protective equipment including safety footwear, dust mask, eye and ear protection while operating the roof sweeper.

- Operate the roof sweeper only on flat or near level built-up roofing systems.
- Electrical cords, propane hoses, ropes and equipment shall be removed from the work area prior to operating the roof sweeper.
- Where practical, reduce dust levels by wetting down the surface of the roofing system with water, prior to operating the sweeper.
- Do not allow other workers to work near or walk in front of the sweeper while in operation.
- Eye and/or dust protection should be worn while working in the vicinity of an operating roof sweeper.
- Operate the roof sweeper directly from behind with both hands controlling the machine.
- Never walk backwards while operating the roof sweeper.
- Operate the sweeper parallel to the roof edge. The sweeper operator should never be positioned between the operating machine and the unguarded roof edge.
- When re-fuelling, shut off the engine and allow it to cool before refueling. If fuel is spilled, clean up the excessive fuel prior to restarting the engine. Remove the fuel container from the work area.
- Guard all roof openings.
- Do not operate a roof sweeper when impaired by alcohol or other drugs.
- Shut off the engine when the sweeper is left unattended.