Form No. 3450-878 Rev D

53cm Super Recycler® Lawn Mower

Model No. 21693—Serial No. 400000000 and Up

Operator's Manual

Introduction

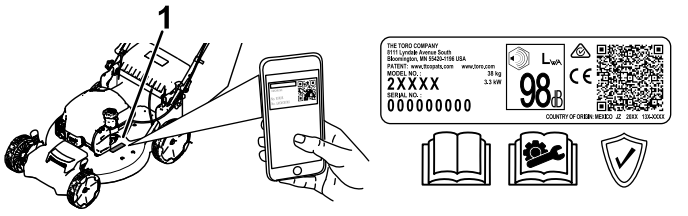
This rotary-blade, walk-behind lawn mower is intended to be used by residential homeowners. It is designed primarily for cutting grass on well-maintained lawns on residential properties. Using this product for purposes other than its intended use could prove dangerous to you and bystanders.

Read this information carefully to learn how to operate and maintain your product properly and to avoid injury and product damage. You are responsible for operating the product properly and safely.

Visit www.Toro.com for more information, including safety tips, training materials, accessory information, help finding a dealer, or to register your product.

Whenever you need service, genuine Toro parts, or additional information, contact an Authorized Service Dealer or Toro Customer Service and have the model and serial numbers of your product ready. Figure 1 identifies the location of the model and serial numbers on the product. Write the numbers in the space provided.

Important: **With your mobile device, you can scan the QR code on the serial number decal (if equipped) to access warranty, parts, and other product information**



g374302

Figure 1

1. Model and serial number location

Model No. _____

Serial No. _____

Safety-Alert Symbol

The safety-alert symbol (Figure 2) shown in this manual and on the machine identifies important safety messages that you must follow to prevent accidents.



g000502

Figure 2

Safety-alert symbol

The safety-alert symbol appears above information that alerts you to unsafe actions or situations and is followed by the word **DANGER**, **WARNING**, or **CAUTION**.

DANGER indicates an imminently hazardous situation which, if not avoided, **will** result in death or serious injury.

WARNING indicates a potentially hazardous situation which, if not avoided, **could** result in death or serious injury.

CAUTION indicates a potentially hazardous situation which, if not avoided, **may** result in minor or moderate injury.

This manual uses two other words to highlight information. **Important** calls attention to special mechanical information and **Note** emphasizes general information worthy of special attention.

This product complies with all relevant European directives; for details, please see the separate product specific Declaration of Conformity (DOC) sheet.

Gross or Net Torque: The gross or net torque of this engine was laboratory rated by the engine manufacturer in accordance with the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) J1940 or J2723. As configured to meet safety, emission, and operating requirements, the actual engine torque on this class of mower will be significantly lower. Please refer to the engine manufacturer's information included with the machine.

Do not tamper with or disable safety devices on the machine, and check their proper operation regularly. Do not attempt to adjust or tamper with the engine

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3450-878

speed control; doing so may create an unsafe operating condition, resulting in personal injury.

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Safety

General Safety

This product is capable of amputating hands and feet and of throwing objects. Always follow all safety instructions to avoid serious personal injury or death.

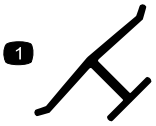
- Read, understand, and follow the instructions and warnings in this *Operator's Manual* and on the machine and attachments before starting the engine.
- Do not put your hands or feet near moving parts or under the machine. Keep clear of any discharge opening.
- Do not operate the machine without all guards and other safety protective devices in place and functioning properly on the machine.
- Keep bystanders and children out of the operating area. Do not allow children to operate the machine. Allow only people who are responsible, trained, familiar with the instructions, and physically capable to operate the machine.
- Stop the machine, shut off the engine, and wait for all moving parts to stop before servicing, fueling, or unclogging the machine.

Improperly using or maintaining this machine can result in injury. To reduce the potential for injury, comply with these safety instructions and always pay attention to the safety-alert symbol ⚠, which means Caution, Warning, or Danger—personal safety instruction. Failure to comply with these instructions may result in personal injury or death.

Safety and Instructional Decals



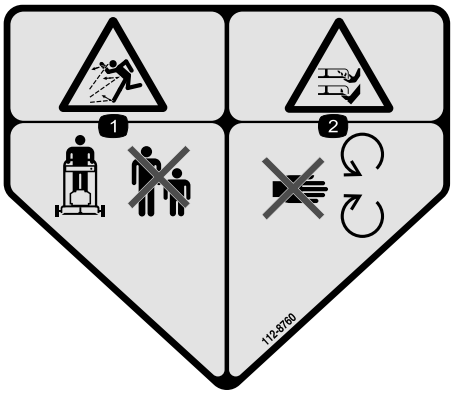
Safety decals and instructions are easily visible to the operator and are located near any area of potential danger. Replace any decal that is damaged or missing.



decaloemmarkt

Manufacturer's Mark

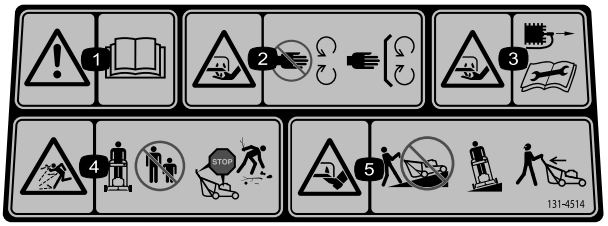
1. This mark indicates that the blade is identified as a part from the original machine manufacturer.



decal112-8760

112-8760

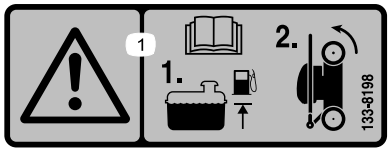
1. Thrown object hazard—keep bystanders away.
2. Cutting/dismemberment hazard of hand or foot, mower blade—stay away from moving parts.



decal131-4514

131-4514

1. Warning—read the *Operator's Manual*.
2. Cutting/dismemberment hazard of hand, mower blade—stay away from moving parts; keep all guards and shields in place.
3. Cutting/dismemberment hazard of hand, mower blade—disconnect the spark-plug wire before performing maintenance.
4. Thrown object hazard—keep bystanders away; shut off the engine before leaving the operating position; pick up any debris before mowing.
5. Cutting/dismemberment hazard of foot, mower blade—do not operate up and down slopes; operate side to side on slopes; look behind you when moving in reverse.



decal133-8198

133-8198

1. Warning—read the *Operator's Manual*; add fuel up to the indicated level, then tip the machine onto the rear wheels for storage.

Setup

Important: **Remove and discard the protective plastic sheet that covers the engine and any other plastic or wrapping on the machine.**

1

Assembling and Unfolding the Handle

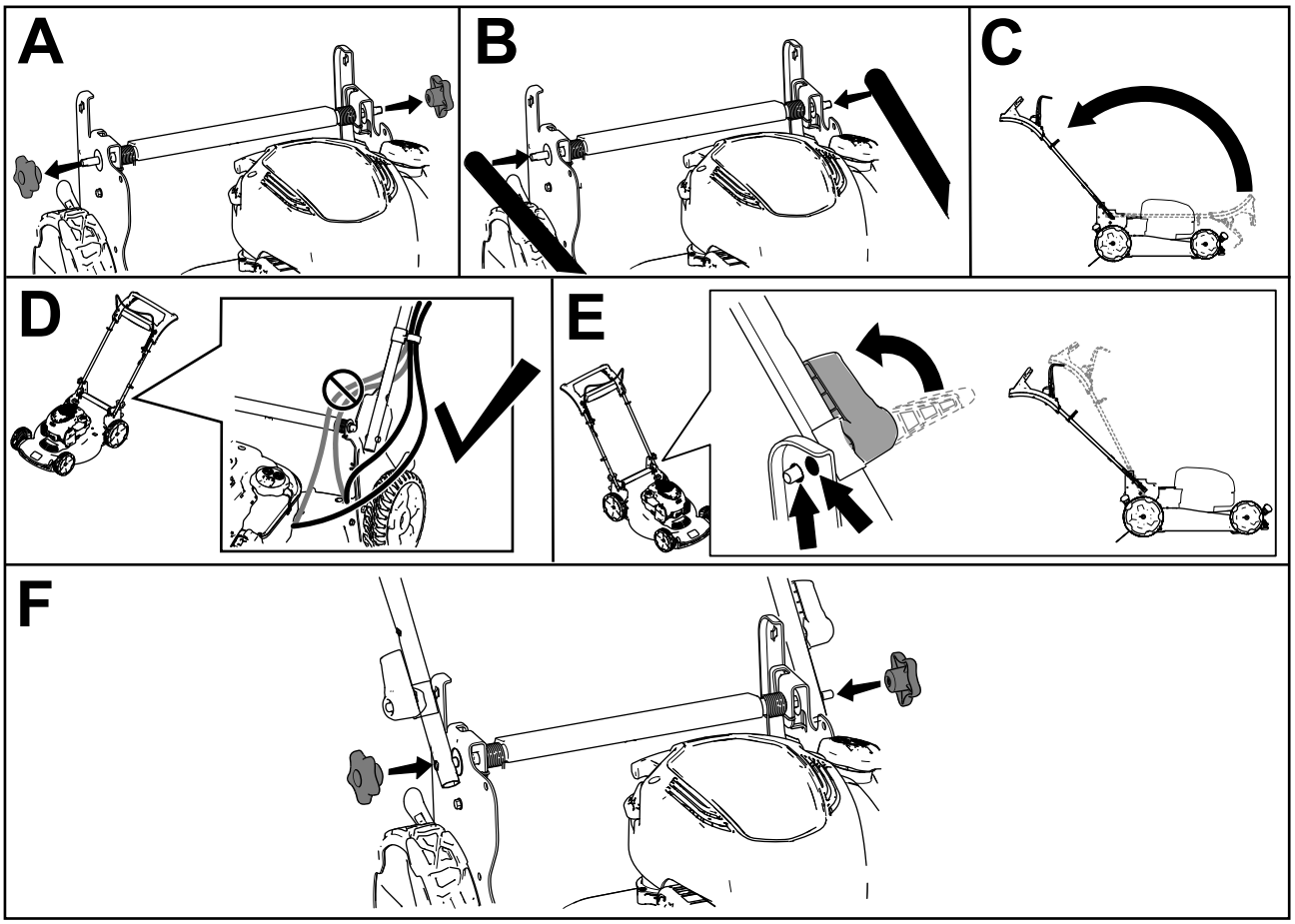
No Parts Required

Procedure

⚠ WARNING

Assembling and unfolding the handle improperly can damage the cables, causing an unsafe operating condition.

- **Do not damage the cables when assembling and unfolding the handle.**
- **Ensure that the cables are routed to the outside of the handle.**
- **If a cable is damaged, contact an Authorized Service Dealer.**



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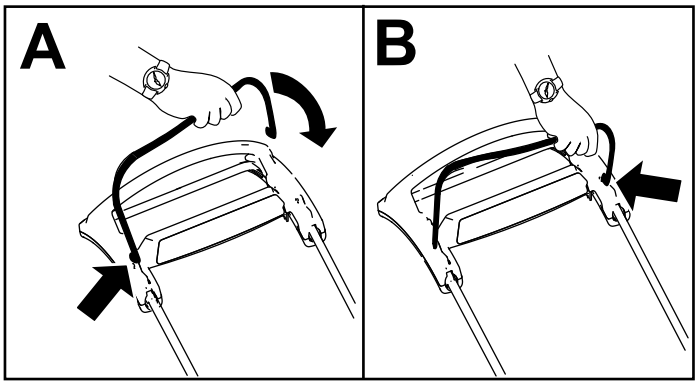
Figure 3

2

Installing the Blade-Control Bar

No Parts Required

Procedure



g344378

Figure 4

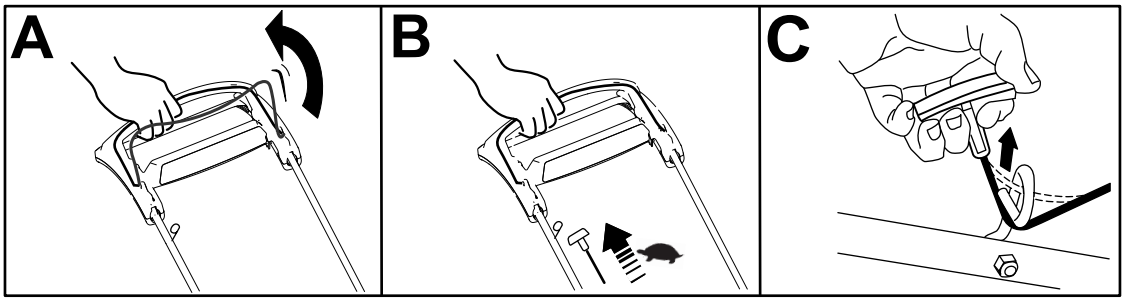
3

Installing the Recoil-Starter Rope in the Rope Guide

No Parts Required

Procedure

Important: **To start the engine safely and easily whenever you use the machine, install the recoil-starter rope in the rope guide.**



g334093

Figure 5

4

Adding Oil to the Engine

No Parts Required

Procedure

Important: **If the oil level in the engine is too low or too high and you run the engine, you may damage the engine.**

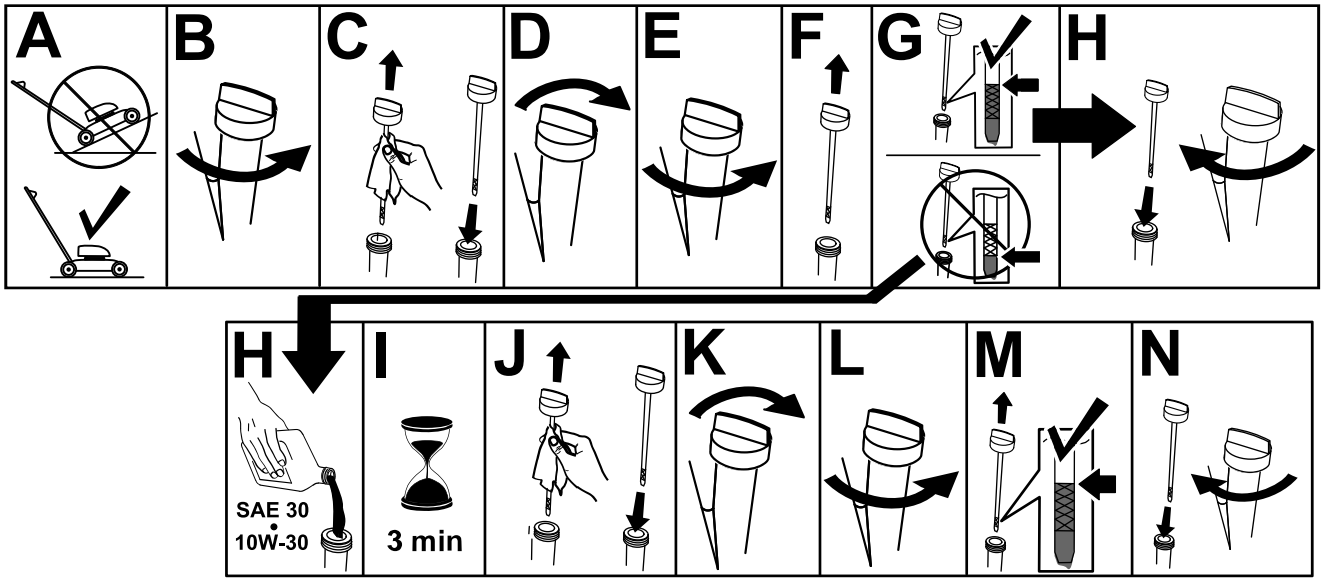


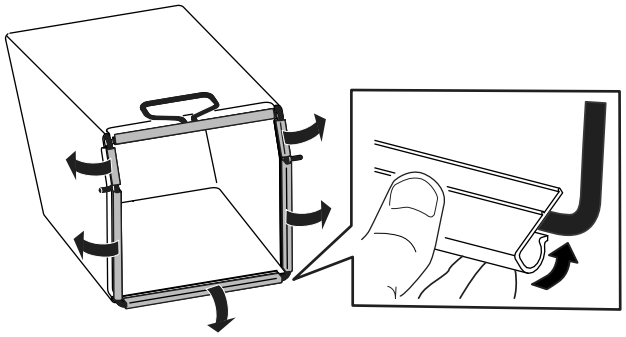
Figure 6

5

Assembling the Grass Bag

No Parts Required

Procedure



g334351

Figure 7

Product Overview

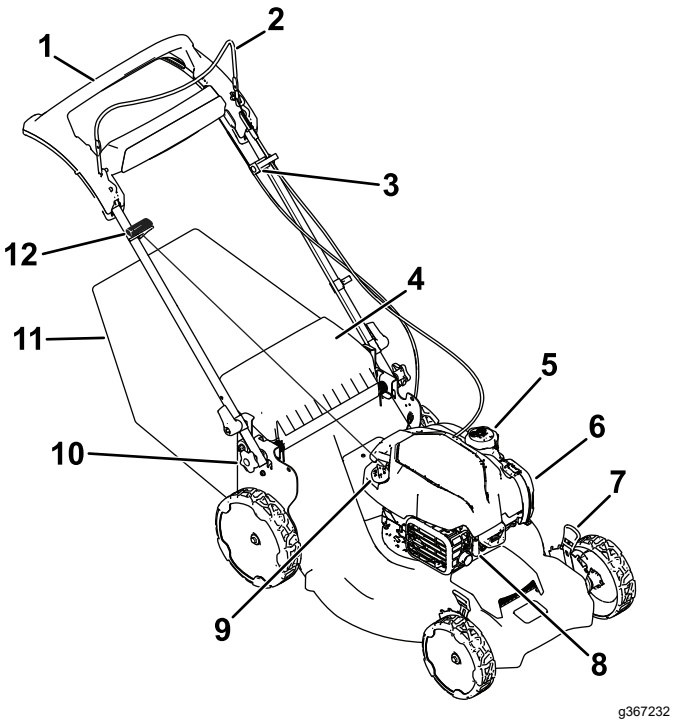


Figure 8

1. Handle
2. Blade-control bar
3. Adjustment for the self-propel drive
4. Rear deflector
5. Fuel-tank cap
6. Air filter
7. Cutting-height lever (4)
8. Spark plug
9. Oil fill/dipstick
10. Handle knob (2)
11. Grass bag
12. Recoil-start handle

Specifications

Model	Weight	Length	Width	Height
21693	38 kg (84 lb)	164 cm	58 cm	106 cm

Attachments/Accessories

A selection of Toro approved attachments and accessories is available for use with the machine to enhance and expand its capabilities. Contact your Authorized Service Dealer or authorized Toro distributor or go to www.Toro.com for a list of all approved attachments and accessories.

To ensure optimum performance and continued safety certification of the machine, use only genuine Toro replacement parts and accessories. Replacement parts and accessories made by other manufacturers could be dangerous, and such use could void the product warranty.

Operation

Note: Determine the left and right sides of the machine from the normal operating position.

Before Operation

Before Operation Safety

General Safety

- Always shut off the machine, wait for all moving parts to stop, and allow the machine to cool before adjusting, servicing, cleaning, or storing it.
- Become familiar with the safe operation of the equipment, operator controls, and safety signs.
- Check that all guards and safety devices, such as deflectors and/or grass catcher, are in place and functioning properly.
- Always inspect the machine to ensure that the blades and blade bolts are not worn or damaged.
- Inspect the area where you will use the machine, and remove all objects that could interfere with the operation of the machine or that the machine could throw.
- Contact with the moving blade will cause serious injury. Do not put your fingers under the housing.

Fuel Safety

- Fuel is extremely flammable and highly explosive. A fire or explosion from fuel can burn you and others and can damage property.
  - To prevent a static charge from igniting the fuel, place the container and/or machine directly on the ground before filling, not in a vehicle or on an object.
  - Fill the fuel tank outdoors, in an open area, when the engine is cold. Wipe up any fuel that spills.
  - Do not handle fuel when smoking or around an open flame or sparks.
  - Do not remove the fuel cap or add fuel to the tank while the engine is running or hot.
  - If you spill fuel, do not attempt to start the engine. Avoid creating a source of ignition until the fuel vapors have dissipated.
  - Store fuel in an approved container and keep it out of the reach of children.
- Fuel is harmful or fatal if swallowed. Long-term exposure to vapors can cause serious injury and illness.
  - Avoid prolonged breathing of vapors.
  - Keep your hands and face away from the nozzle and the fuel-tank opening.
  - Keep fuel away from your eyes and skin.

Filling the Fuel Tank

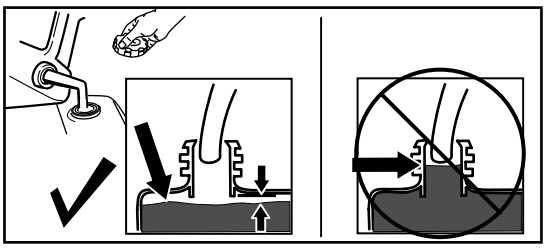
Type	Unleaded gasoline
Minimum octane rating	87 (US) or 91 (research octane; outside the US)
Ethanol	No more than 10% by volume
Methanol	None
MTBE (methyl tertiary butyl ether)	Less than 15% by volume
Oil	Do not add to the fuel

Use only clean, fresh (no more than 30 days old), fuel from a reputable source.

Important: **To reduce starting problems, add fuel stabilizer/conditioner to fresh fuel as directed by the fuel-stabilizer/conditioner manufacturer.**

Refer to your engine owner's manual for additional information.

Fill the fuel tank as shown in Figure 9.



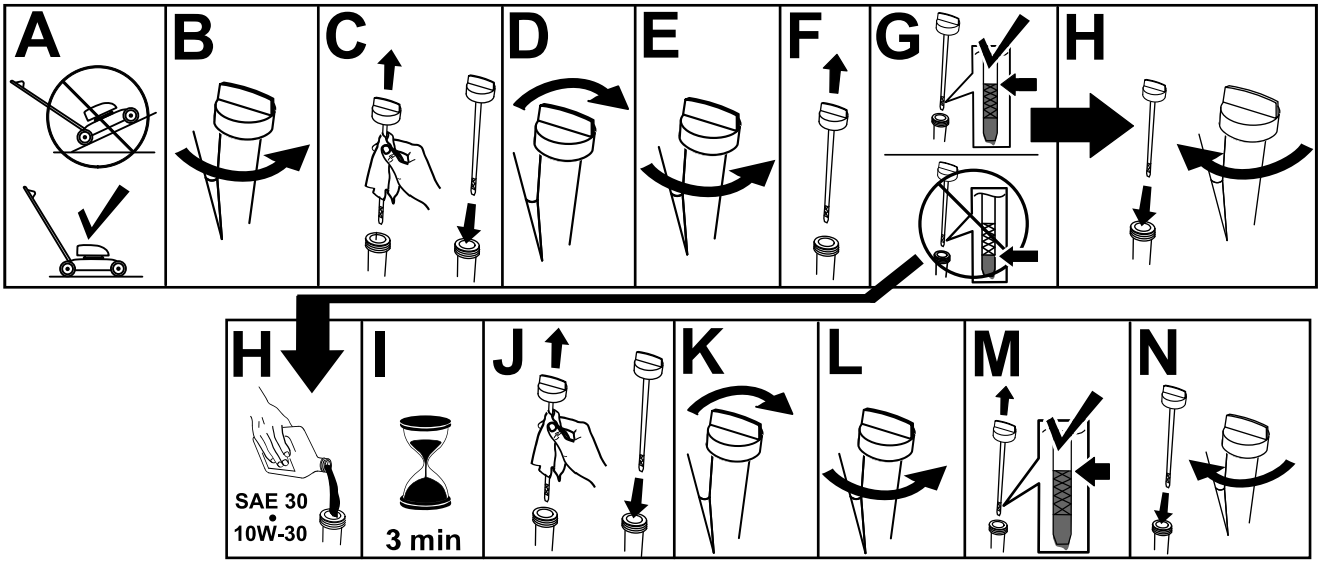
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Figure 9

Checking the Engine-Oil Level

Service Interval: Before each use or daily

Important: **If the oil level in the crankcase is too low or too high and you run the engine, you may damage the engine.**



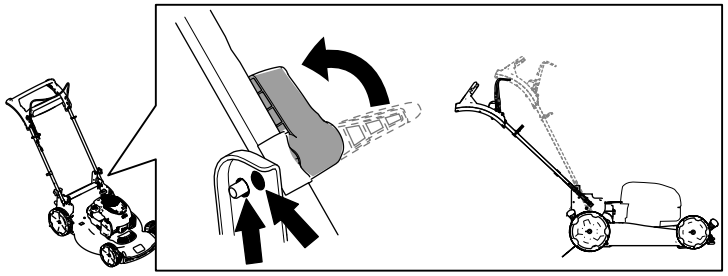
g231765

Figure 10

Adjusting the Handle Height

You may raise or lower the handle to a position comfortable for you.

Rotate the handle lock, move the handle to 1 of 2 positions, and lock the handle into position (Figure 11).



g334366

Figure 11

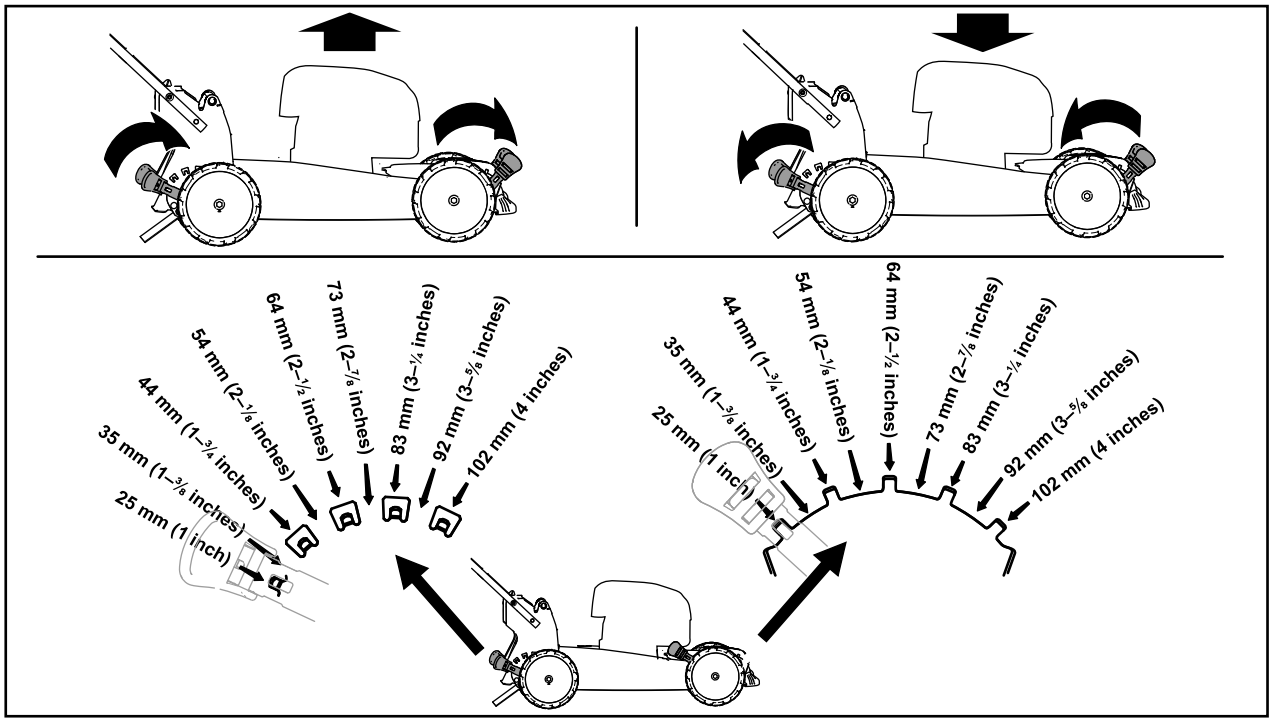
Adjusting the Cutting Height

⚠ CAUTION

If the engine has been running, the muffler will be hot and can burn you.

Keep away from the hot muffler.

Adjust the cutting height as desired. Set all wheels to the same cutting height (Figure 12).



g369225

Figure 12

During Operation

During Operation Safety

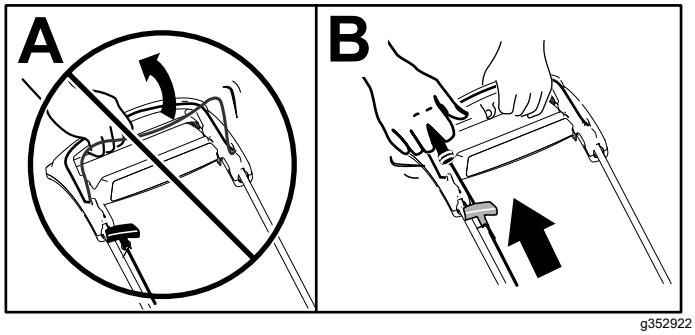
General Safety

- Wear appropriate clothing, including eye protection; long pants; substantial, slip-resistant footwear; and hearing protection. Tie back long hair and do not wear loose clothing or loose jewelry.
- Use your full attention while operating the machine. Do not engage in any activity that causes distractions; otherwise, injury or property damage may occur.
- Do not operate the machine while ill, tired, or under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- The blade is sharp; contacting the blade can result in serious personal injury. Shut off the engine and wait for all moving parts to stop before leaving the operating position.
- When you release the blade-control bar, the engine should shut off and the blade should stop within 3 seconds. If not, stop using your machine immediately and contact an Authorized Service Dealer.
- Keep bystanders out of the operating area. Keep small children out of the operating area and under the watchful care of a responsible adult who is not operating the machine. Stop the machine if anyone enters the area.
- Always look down and behind you before moving the machine in reverse.
- Operate the machine only in good visibility and appropriate weather conditions. Do not operate the machine when there is the risk of lightning.
- Wet grass or leaves can cause serious injury if you slip and contact the blade. Avoid mowing in wet conditions.
- Use extreme care when approaching blind corners, shrubs, trees, or other objects that may block your view.
- Do not direct the discharge material toward anyone. Avoid discharging material against a wall or obstruction; material may ricochet toward you. Stop the blade(s) when crossing gravel surfaces.
- Watch for holes, ruts, bumps, rocks, or other hidden objects. Uneven terrain could cause you to lose your balance or footing.
- If the machine strikes an object or starts to vibrate, immediately shut off the engine, wait for all moving parts to stop, and disconnect the wire from the spark plug before examining the machine for damage. Make all necessary repairs before resuming operation.
- Before leaving the operating position, shut off the engine and wait for all moving parts to stop.
- If the engine has been running, it will be hot and can severely burn you. Keep away from the hot engine.
- Operate the engine only in well-ventilated areas. Exhaust gases contain carbon monoxide, which is an odorless, deadly poison.
- Check the grass catcher components and the discharge chute frequently for any wear or deterioration and replace them with genuine Toro parts when necessary.

Slope Safety

- Mow across the face of slopes; never up and down. Use extreme caution when changing direction on slopes.
- Do not mow on excessively steep slopes. Poor footing could cause a slip-and-fall accident.
- Mow with caution near drop-offs, ditches, or embankments.

Starting the Engine



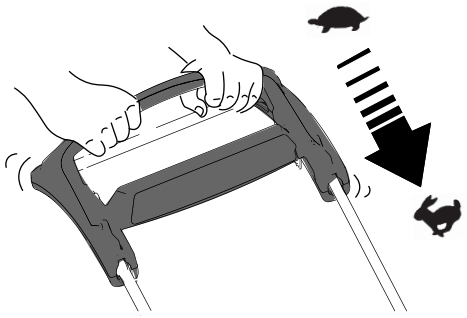
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Figure 13

Note: If the machine does not start after several attempts, contact an Authorized Service Dealer.

Using the Self-Propel Drive

To operate the self-propel drive, simply walk with your hands on the upper handle and your elbows at your sides, and the machine will automatically keep pace with you (Figure 14).



g334136

Figure 14

Note: If the machine does not freely roll backward after self-propelling, stop walking, hold your hands in place, and allow the machine to roll a couple of centimeters (inches) forward to disengage the wheel drive. You can also try reaching just under the upper handle to the metal handle and pushing the machine forward a couple of centimeters (inches). If the machine still does not roll backward easily, contact an Authorized Service Dealer.

Shutting Off the Engine

Service Interval: Before each use or daily—Ensure that the engine shuts off within 3 seconds after releasing the blade-control bar.

To shut off the engine, release the blade-control bar.

Important: **When you release the blade-control bar, both the engine and blade should stop within 3 seconds. If they do not stop properly, stop using your machine immediately and contact an Authorized Service Dealer.**

Recycling the Clippings

Your machine comes from the factory ready to recycle the grass and leaf clippings back into the lawn.

If the grass bag is on the machine, remove it before recycling the clippings. Refer to Removing the Grass Bag (page 16).

Bagging the Clippings

Use the grass bag when you want to collect grass and leaf clippings from the lawn.

⚠ WARNING

A worn grass bag could allow small stones and other similar debris to be thrown toward you or bystanders, resulting in serious personal injury or death.

Check the grass bag frequently. If it is damaged, install a new Toro replacement bag.

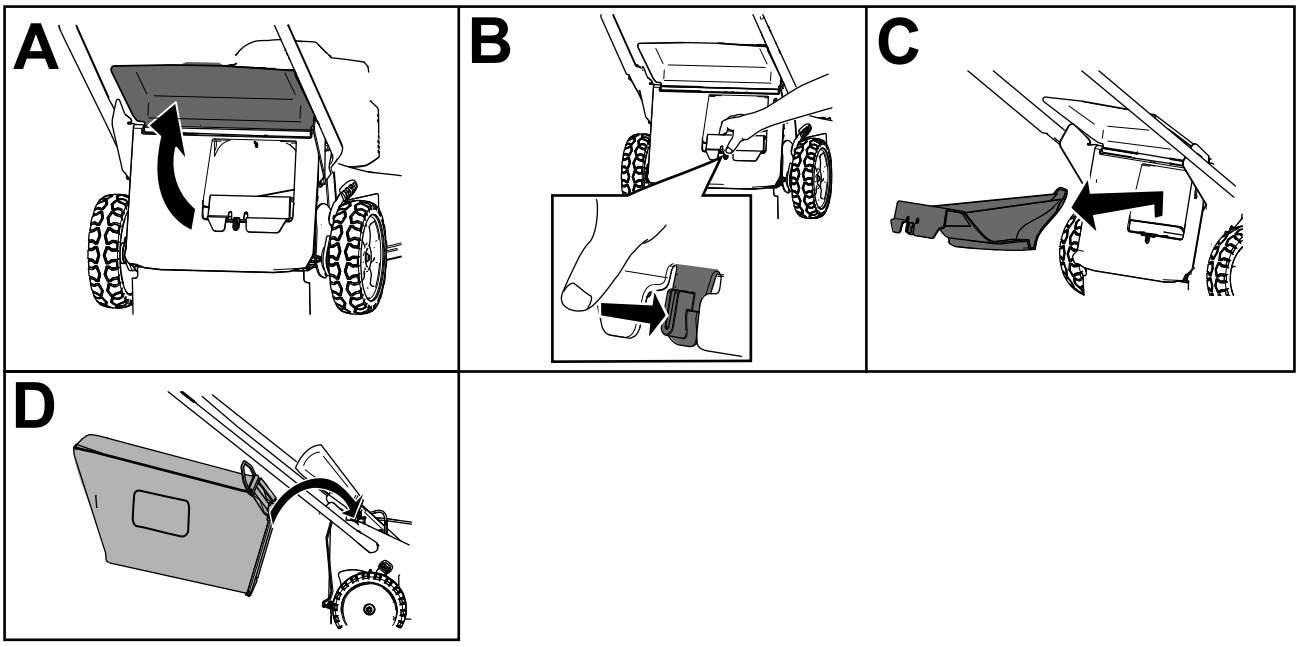
⚠ WARNING

The blades are sharp; contacting the blades can result in serious personal injury.

Shut off the machine and wait for all moving parts to stop before leaving the operating position.

Installing the Grass Bag

1. Shut off the machine and wait for all moving parts to stop.
2. Raise and hold up the rear deflector (A of Figure 15).
3. Remove the rear-discharge plug by pushing in the latch with your thumb and pulling the plug out from the machine (B and C of Figure 15).
4. Install the bag-rod ends into the notches at the base of the handle, and rock the bag back and forth to ensure that the bag-rod ends are seated at the bottom of both notches (D of Figure 15).
5. Lower the rear deflector until it rests on the grass bag.



g367752

Figure 15

Removing the Grass Bag

⚠ DANGER

The machine can throw grass clippings and other objects through an opening in the machine housing. Objects thrown with enough force could cause serious personal injury or death to you or to bystanders.

- **Never remove the grass bag and then start the machine without the discharge plug installed on the machine.**
- **Never open the rear deflector on the machine when the machine is running.**

1. Shut off the machine and wait for all moving parts to stop.
2. Raise the rear deflector.
3. Remove the bag rod on the grass bag from the notches at the base of the handle (A of Figure 15).
4. Install the discharge plug (B of Figure 15).
5. Lower the rear deflector (C of Figure 15).

Operating Tips

General Mowing Tips

- Inspect the area where you will use the machine and remove all objects that the machine could throw.
- Avoid striking solid objects with the blade. Never deliberately mow over any object.
- If the machine strikes an object or starts to vibrate, immediately shut off the engine, wait for all moving parts to stop, disconnect the wire from the spark plug, and examine the machine for damage.
- For best performance, install a new Toro blade before the cutting season begins or when necessary.

Cutting Grass

- Cut only about a third of the grass blade at a time. Do not cut below 51 mm (2 inches) unless the grass is sparse or it is late fall when grass growth begins to slow down.
- When cutting grass over 15 cm (6 inches) tall, mow at the highest cutting height setting and walk slower; then mow again at a lower setting for the best lawn appearance. If the grass is too long, the machine may plug and cause the engine to stall.
- Wet grass and leaves tend to clump on the yard and can cause the machine to plug or the engine to stall. Avoid mowing in wet conditions.
- Be aware of a potential fire hazard in very dry conditions, follow all local fire warnings, and keep the machine free of dry grass and leaf debris.
- Alternate the mowing direction. This helps disperse the clippings over the lawn for even fertilization.
- If the finished lawn appearance is unsatisfactory, try 1 or more of the following:
  - Replace the blade or have it sharpened.
  - Walk at a slower pace while mowing.
  - Raise the cutting height on your machine.
  - Cut the grass more frequently.
  - Overlap cutting swaths instead of cutting a full swath with each pass.

Cutting Leaves

- After cutting the lawn, ensure that half of the lawn shows through the cut leaf cover. You may need to make more than a single pass over the leaves.
- If there are more than 13 cm (5 inches) of leaves on the lawn, mow at a higher cutting height and then again at the desired cutting height.
- Slow down your mowing speed if the machine does not cut the leaves finely enough.

After Operation

After Operation Safety

General Safety

- Always shut off the machine, wait for all moving parts to stop, and allow the machine to cool before adjusting, servicing, cleaning, or storing it.
- Clean grass and debris from the machine to help prevent fires. Clean up oil or fuel spills.
- Never store the machine or fuel container where there is an open flame, spark, or pilot light, such as on a water heater or on other appliances.

Hauling Safety

- Use care when loading or unloading the machine.
- Secure the machine from rolling.

Cleaning Under the Machine

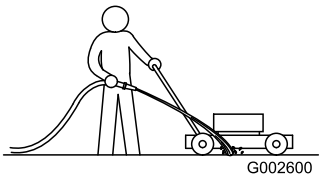
Service Interval: After each use

For best results, clean under the machine shortly after you have completed mowing.

Cleaning Under the Machine in the Operating Position

1. Lower the machine to its lowest cutting-height setting.
2. Move the machine onto a paved level surface.
3. With the engine running and the blade engaged, spray a stream of water in front of the **right**, rear wheel (Figure 16).

   Note: The water will splash into the path of the blade, cleaning out the clippings.



g002600

Figure 16

4. When no more clippings come out, stop the water and move the machine to a dry area.
5. Start the engine and run it for a few minutes to dry the underside of the machine to prevent it from rusting.
6. Shut off the engine, remove the electric-start button (if equipped), and allow the machine to cool before storing it in an enclosed area.

Cleaning under the Machine in the Vertical-stow Position

1. Set the machine in the vertical-stow position; refer to Storing the Machine in the Vertical-Stow Position (page 19).
2. Wash out the clippings from under the machine.

Folding the Handle

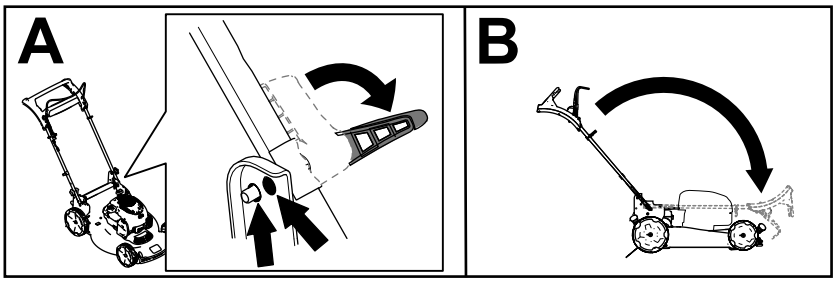
⚠ WARNING

Folding or unfolding the handle improperly can damage the cables, causing an unsafe operating condition.

- **Do not damage the cables when folding or unfolding the handle.**
- **If a cable is damaged, contact an Authorized Service Dealer.**

1. Hold the handle while disengaging the handle locks to avoid pinching your hands.
2. Disengage the handle locks until you can move the upper handle freely (A of Figure 17)
3. Fold the handle forward to the fully forward position (B of Figure 17).

   Important: **Route the cables to the outside of the handle locks as you fold the handle.**



g334367

Figure 17

4. To unfold the handle, refer to 1 Assembling and Unfolding the Handle (page 5).

Storing the Machine in the Vertical-Stow Position

During the mowing season or in the off-season, you can store your machine in the vertical position to minimize storage space.

⚠ DANGER

Fuel is extremely flammable and explosive. A fire or explosion from fuel can burn you and others.

- **Storing the machine in the vertical position when there is too much fuel in the fuel tank may cause fuel to leak from the fuel tank. Fuel is extremely flammable and explosive. A fire or explosion from fuel can burn you and others.**
- **Store the machine in the vertical position only when the level of fuel in the fuel tank is no higher than what is recommended in this *Operator's Manual*.**
- **Do not store the machine in a position that is beyond the vertical (90°) position; otherwise, fuel may escape from the fuel tank.**
- **Do not transport the machine in the vertical-stow position.**
- **Do not attempt to start the machine in the vertical-stow position.**
- **Do not attempt to store any machine with fuel and oil in the vertical-stow position that is not designed for that purpose.**

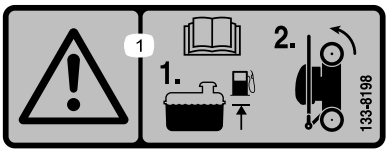
⚠ WARNING

Folding or unfolding the handle improperly can damage the cables, causing an unsafe operating condition.

- **Do not damage the cables when folding or unfolding the handle.**
- **If a cable is damaged, contact an Authorized Service Dealer.**

1. Ensure that the level of fuel in the fuel tank is no higher than what is recommended by the engine manufacturer; refer to the engine manufacturer's decal on the engine (Figure 18).

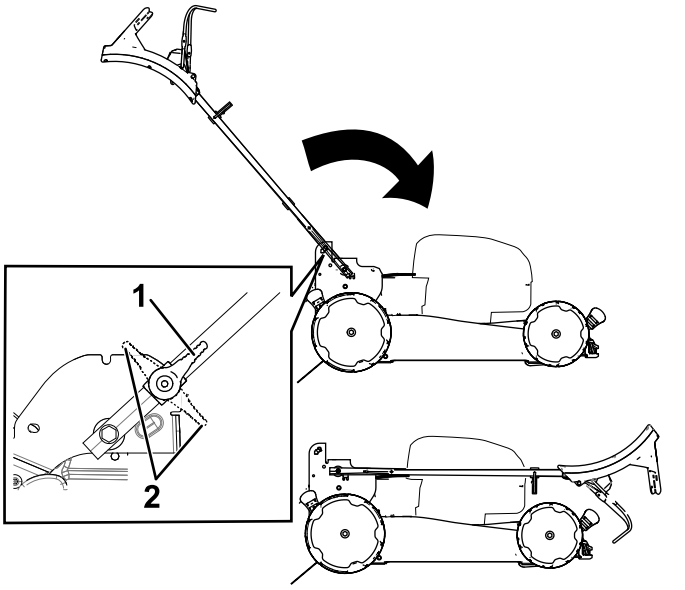
   Note: If there is the level of fuel in the fuel tank is too high, drain the fuel from the fuel tank into an approved fuel container until it is at or below the level recommended by the engine manufacturer.



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Figure 18

2. Ensure that the cutting-height setting on the machine is 92 mm (3-5/8 inches) or lower. If it is not, lower it; refer to Adjusting the Cutting Height (page 12).
3. Disengage the handle locks (Figure 19).



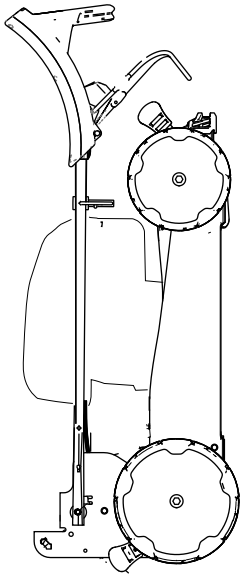
g367780

Figure 19

1. Handle lock disengaged positions
2. Handle lock engaged position

4. Fold the handle fully forward (Figure 19).

   Important: **Route the cables to the outside of the handle knobs as you fold the handle.**
5. Engage the handle locks.
6. Lift the front of the machine by the handle and move it into a storage space (Figure 20).



g367781

Figure 20

Maintenance

Recommended Maintenance Schedule(s)

Maintenance Service Interval	Maintenance Procedure
After the first 5 hours	• Change the engine oil.
Before each use or daily	• Check the engine-oil level and add oil as needed. • Ensure that the engine shuts off within 3 seconds after releasing the blade-control bar.
After each use	• Clean grass clippings and dirt from under the machine.
Every 25 hours	• Service the air filter; service it more frequently in dusty operating conditions.
Yearly	• Replace the air filter; replace it more frequently in dusty operating conditions. • Change the engine oil. • Replace the blade or have it sharpened (more frequently if the edge dulls quickly). • Clean the engine by removing dirt and debris from its top and sides; clean it more frequently in dusty operating conditions.
Yearly or before storage	• Empty the fuel tank before repairs as directed and before yearly storage.

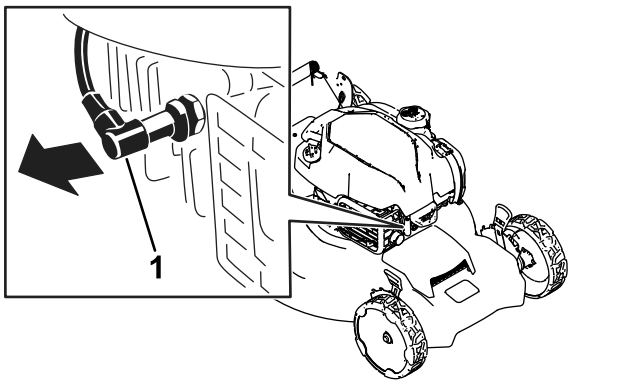
Important: **Refer to your engine manual for additional maintenance procedures.**

Maintenance Safety

- Always shut off the machine, wait for all moving parts to stop, and allow the machine to cool before adjusting, servicing, cleaning, or storing it.
- Disconnect the spark-plug wire from the spark plug before performing any maintenance procedure.
- Wear gloves and eye protection when servicing the machine.
- The blade is sharp; contacting the blade can result in serious personal injury. Wear gloves when servicing the blade. Do not repair or alter the blade(s).
- Never tamper with safety devices. Check their proper operation regularly.
- Tipping the machine may cause the fuel to leak. Fuel is flammable and explosive, and can cause personal injury. Run the engine dry or remove the fuel with a hand pump; never siphon the fuel.
- To ensure optimum performance of the machine, use only genuine Toro replacement parts and accessories. Replacement parts and accessories made by other manufacturers could be dangerous, and such use could void the product warranty.

Preparing for Maintenance

1. Shut off the engine and wait for all moving parts to stop.
2. Disconnect the spark-plug wire from the spark plug (Figure 21).



g367506

Figure 21

1. Spark-plug wire

3. After performing the maintenance procedure(s), connect the spark-plug wire to the spark plug.

   Important: **Before tipping the machine to change the oil or replace the blade, allow the fuel tank to run dry through normal usage. If you must tip the machine prior to running out of fuel, use a hand fuel pump to remove the fuel. Always tip the machine onto its side, with the dipstick down.**

Servicing the Air Filter

Service Interval: Every 25 hours

Yearly

1. Unclip the top of the air-filter cover (Figure 22).

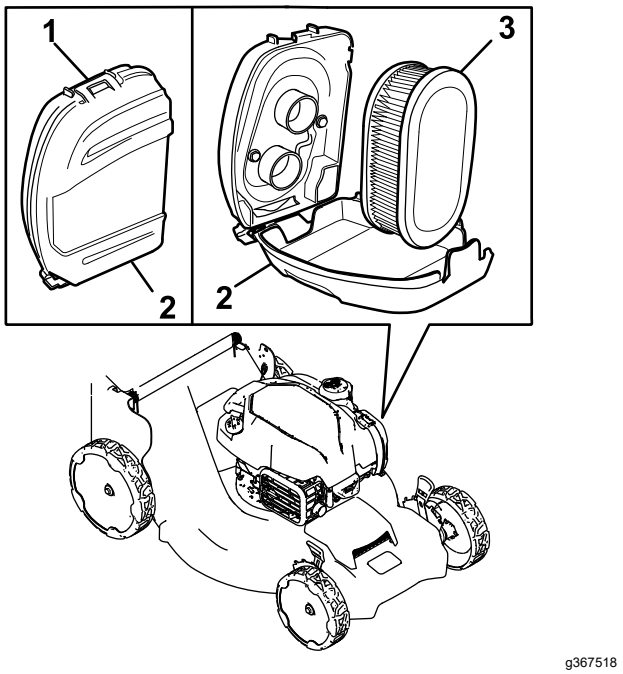


Figure 22

1. Clip
2. Air-filter cover
3. Air filter

2. Remove the air filter (Figure 22).
3. Inspect the air filter.

   Note: If the air filter is excessively dirty, replace it with a new filter. Otherwise, gently tap the air filter on a hard surface to loosen debris.
4. Install the air filter.
5. Use the clip to install the air-filter cover.

Changing the Engine Oil

Service Interval: After the first 5 hours

Yearly

Note: Run the engine a few minutes before changing the oil to warm it. Warm oil flows better and carries more contaminants.

Engine Oil Specifications

Engine oil capacity	0.44 L (15 fl oz)*
Oil viscosity	SAE 30 or SAE 10W-30 detergent oil
API service classification	SJ or higher

*There is residual oil in the crankcase after you drain the oil. Do not pour the entire capacity of oil into the crankcase. Fill the crankcase with oil as directed in the following steps.

1. Move the machine to a level surface.
2. Refer to Preparing for Maintenance (page 21).
3. Remove the dipstick by rotating the cap counterclockwise and pulling it out (Figure 23).

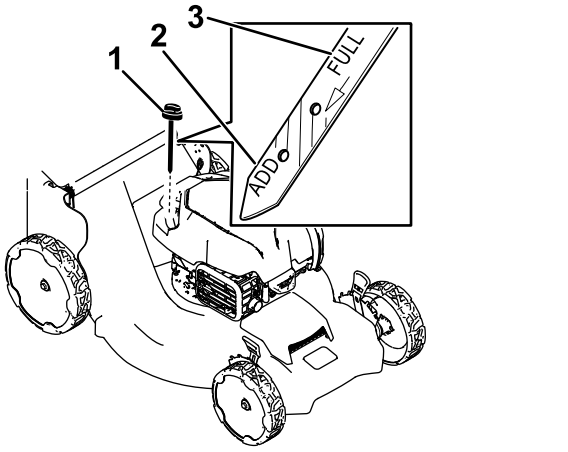
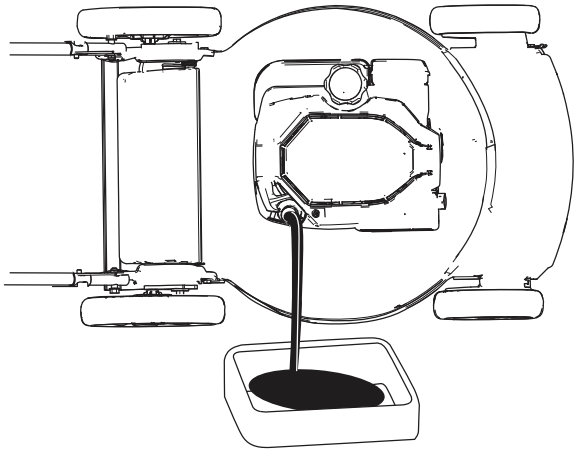


Figure 23

1. Dipstick
2. Add
3. Full

4. Tip the machine onto its side (so that the air filter is up) to drain the used oil from the oil-fill tube (Figure 23).



g361896

Figure 24

5. After draining the used oil, return the machine to the operating position.
6. Carefully pour about 3/4 of the engine capacity of oil into the oil-fill tube.
7. Wait 3 minutes for the oil to settle in the engine.
8. Wipe the dipstick clean with a clean cloth.
9. Insert the dipstick into the oil-fill tube, **but do not screw it in,** then remove the dipstick.
10. Read the oil level on the dipstick.
    - If the oil level on the dipstick is too low, carefully pour a small amount of oil into the oil-fill tube, wait 3 minutes, and repeat steps 8 through 10 until the oil level on the dipstick is correct.
    - If the oil level on the dipstick is too high, drain the excess oil until the oil level on the dipstick is correct.

    Important: **If the oil level in the engine is too low or too high and you run the engine, you may damage the engine.**
11. Install the dipstick into the oil-fill tube securely.
12. Recycle the used oil properly.

Replacing the Blade

Service Interval: Yearly

Important: ***You will need a torque wrench to install the blade properly*****. If you do not have a torque wrench or are uncomfortable performing this procedure, contact an Authorized Service Dealer.**

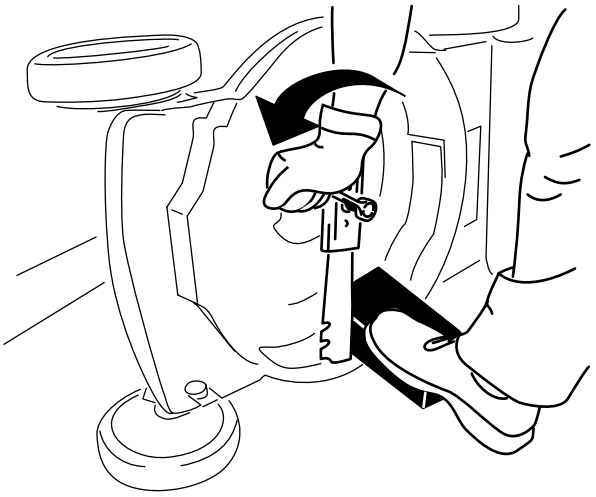
Examine the blade whenever you run out of fuel. If the blade is damaged or cracked, replace it immediately. If the blade edge is dull or nicked, have it sharpened and balanced, or replace it.

⚠ WARNING

The blade is sharp; contacting the blade can result in serious personal injury.

Wear gloves when servicing the blade.

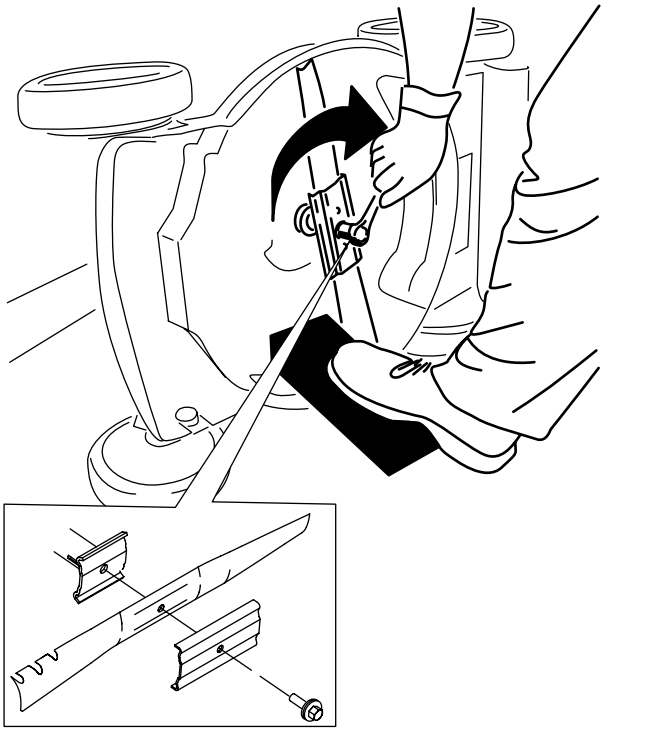
1. Refer to Preparing for Maintenance (page 21).
2. Tip the machine onto its side with the air filter up.
3. Use a block of wood to hold the blade steady (Figure 25).



g231389

Figure 25

4. Remove the blade, saving all mounting hardware (Figure 25).
5. Install the new blade and all mounting hardware (Figure 26).



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Figure 26

Important: **Position the curved ends of the blade to point toward the machine housing.**

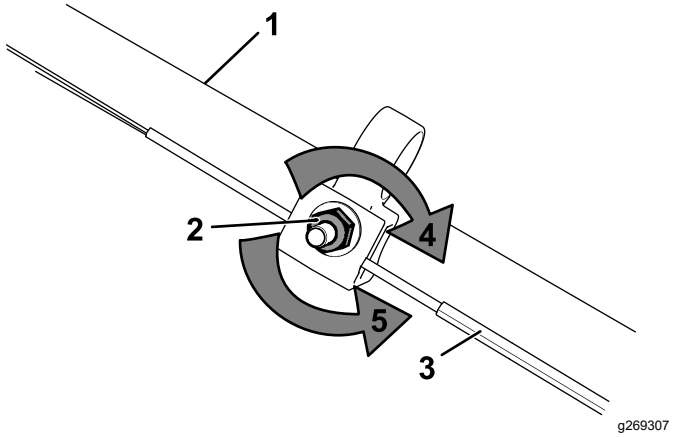
6. **Use a torque wrench to tighten the blade bolt to 88 N·m (65 ft-lb).**

Adjusting the Self-Propel Drive

For Self-Propel-Drive Models Only

Whenever you install a new self-propel cable or if the self-propel drive is out of adjustment, adjust the self-propel drive.

1. Turn the adjustment nut counterclockwise to loosen the cable adjustment (Figure 27).



g269307

Figure 27

1. Handle (left side)
2. Adjustment nut
3. Self-propel-drive cable
4. Turn the nut clockwise to tighten the adjustment.
5. Turn the nut counterclockwise to loosen the adjustment.

2. Adjust the tension on the cable (Figure 27) by pulling it back or pushing it forward and holding that position.

   Note: Push the cable toward the engine to increase the traction; pull the cable away from the engine to decrease the traction.

3. Turn the adjustment nut clockwise to tighten the cable adjustment.

   Note: Tighten the nut firmly with a socket or wrench.

Storage

Store the machine in a cool, clean, dry place.

Storage Safety

Always shut off the machine, wait for all moving parts to stop, and allow the machine to cool before adjusting, servicing, cleaning, or storing it.

Preparing the Machine for Storage

1. On the last refueling of the year, add fuel stabilizer (such as Toro Premium Fuel Treatment) to the fuel as directed on the label.
2. Dispose of any unused fuel properly. Recycle it according to local codes or use it in your automobile.

   Important: **Old fuel in the fuel tank is the leading cause of hard starting. Do not store the fuel without fuel stabilizer more than 30 days, and do not store stabilized fuel beyond the duration recommended by the fuel-stabilizer manufacturer.**
3. Run the machine until the engine shuts off from running out of fuel.
4. Start the engine again and allow it to run until it shuts off. When you can no longer start the engine, it is sufficiently dry.
5. Disconnect the wire from the spark plug and connect the wire to the retaining post (if equipped).
6. Remove the spark plug, add 30 ml (1 fl oz) of engine oil through the spark-plug hole, and pull the starter rope slowly several times to distribute oil throughout the cylinder to prevent cylinder corrosion during the off-season.
7. Loosely install the spark plug.
8. Tighten all nuts, bolts, and screws.

Removing the Machine from Storage

1. Check and tighten all fasteners.
2. Remove the spark plug and spin the engine rapidly by pulling the recoil-start handle to blow the excess oil from the cylinder.
3. Install the spark plug and tighten it with a torque wrench to 20 N·m (15 ft-lb).
4. Perform any maintenance procedures; refer to Maintenance (page 21).
5. Check the engine-oil level; refer to Checking the Engine-Oil Level (page 11).
6. Fill the fuel tank with fresh fuel; refer to Filling the Fuel Tank (page 10).
7. Connect the wire to the spark plug.

Notes:

Notes:



Count on it.