



MODEL NO. 51231 – 49000001 & UP

OPERATOR'S MANUAL

ELECTRIC TRIMMER 8 Inch Cutting Width

IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS



WARNING

To assure maximum safety, optimum performance, and to gain knowledge of the product, **it is essential that you or any other operator of the trimmer read and understand the contents of this manual before the motor is ever started.** Pay particular attention to the safety alert symbol which means **CAUTION, WARNING, OR DANGER** — “personal safety instruction.” Read and understand the instruction because it has to do with safety. **FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH INSTRUCTION MAY RESULT IN PERSONAL INJURY.**

SAVE THESE INSTRUCTIONS FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

1. Read and understand the contents of this manual before operating the trimmer. Become familiar with all controls and know how to stop it quickly.
2. Keep everyone, especially children and pets, away from area of operation.
3. Never allow children to operate trimmer. It is not a toy. Never allow adults to operate unit without first reading Operator's Manual.
4. Always wear safety goggles or other suitable eye protection when using trimmer.
5. Avoid Dangerous Environment—Never operate the trimmer in wet or damp conditions.
6. Never use trimmer in the rain.
7. Inspect area thoroughly where trimmer will be used. Pick up any debris or objects that could be entangled in trimmer or picked up by trimmer and thrown. Keep area of operation clear of all persons, particularly small children and pets.
8. Dress properly—Do not wear loose clothing or jewelry which can be caught in moving parts. Always wear substantial footwear and long pants.
9. Use the right appliance—Do not use the appliance for any job except that for which it was intended such as cutting grass and small weeds.
10. **WARNING**—To reduce the risk of electrical shock, use only an extension cord suitable for outdoor use. Replace damaged extension cord immediately.
11. Extension cord—To prevent disconnection of the trimmer from the extension cord during operation, properly connect extension cord prior to operating.
12. Avoid unintentional starting. Be sure switch is off when plugging in. Do not carry plugged-in trimmer with finger on switch.
13. Do not abuse extension cord. Never yank cord to disconnect from receptacle. Keep cord away from heat, oil, and sharp edges. Replace damaged extension cords immediately.
14. Do not force the trimmer. It operates better and safer at the rate for which it was designed.
15. Use only in daylight or with good artificial light. Always be sure of your footing. Keep a firm hold on the handle and walk, never run.
16. Stop the motor and unplug the extension cord whenever you leave the trimmer, before cleaning the housing, and when making any repairs or inspections.
17. When not in use, store your trimmer in a dry place — high or locked up out of the reach of children.
18. Keep all fasteners tight to ensure the trimmer is in safe working condition.
19. Never operate without factory installed guards or other protective safety devices in place.
20. Do not put hands or feet near or under rotating parts. Keep clear at all times.
21. If the trimmer should start to vibrate abnormally, unplug the trimmer and check immediately for the cause. Vibration is generally a warning of trouble.
22. Do not operate your Toro trimmer after it has been damaged. Return it to your nearest authorized service dealer for inspection and repair.



SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

23. When servicing use only identical replacement parts. Replace or repair damaged extension cords.

24. Don't Overreach—Keep proper footing and balance at all times when operating the trimmer.

25. Maintain Appliance With Care—Keep cutting head and motor housing clean for best performance and to reduce the risk of injury. Follow General Maintenance Instructions on page 7.

26. CAUTION—Cutting knife on grass shield is sharp and care should be taken when cleaning and handling.

27. EXTENSION CORD REQUIREMENTS—Use an extension cord suitable for outdoor use and one that complies with the requirements specified in the International Electric Code. Make sure your cord is in good condition; if damaged, replace. Use a cord that is large enough to carry the current the trimmer will draw. Figure 1 shows the correct size cord to use for trimmers of 6 amps or less.

Note: When in doubt about what size cord to use, choose the next heavier gauge. The smaller the gauge number, the heavier the cord. An undersized cord causes a drop in line voltage which results in a loss of power and overheating.

See Figures 4 & 5 for proper cord connection.

EXTENSION CORD CHART

If length of extension cord is less than or equal to:	100 ft.	150 ft.
Assure wire size gage (A.W.G.) in cord is:	16	14

Figure 1

Note: Use of an extension cord over 150 feet is not recommended.



SAFETY DECALS AND INSTRUCTIONS

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

The Toro Company
Minneapolis, MN, U.S.A.
8 Inch Cut Trimmer
Model 51231
120 Volts A.C., 2.0 AMPS, 60Hz

DOUBLE INSULATED **LISTED 957U**
Mfd. under U.S. Pat. Nos. 4134204, 4524515 & 4707919. Other patent(s) pending
SERIAL NUMBER

1 2 3 4

WARNING

OBJECTS CAN BE THROWN BY THE TRIMMER. THROWN OBJECTS COULD CAUSE INJURY TO THE OPERATOR OR BYSTANDERS.

- Always wear eye and leg protection.
- Keep people and pets away from trimming area.

PERSONAL INJURY COULD BE CAUSED BY CONTACT WITH ROTATING CUTTING LINE.

- Keep all parts of your body clear.
- Do not operate without grass shield in place.
- Unplug unit before cleaning or servicing.
- Use only .050" nylon monofilament cutting line.

TO AVOID PERSONAL INJURY:

- Read and understand operator's manual.
- To reduce risk of electric shock, do not expose unit to water.
- When servicing use only identical replacement parts.

FOR SPOOL REPLACEMENT USE TORO MODEL 88170.

ON METAL TUBE

(Part No. 73-8420)

PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION AND ORDERING

The trimmer has two identification numbers: a model number and a serial number. The two numbers are on a decal attached to the handle tube assembly. For your convenience, record the model and serial numbers in the space provided below.

Model No: _____

Serial No. _____

In any correspondence concerning the trimmer, supply the model and serial numbers to ensure that correct information and replacement parts are obtained.

To order replacement parts from an Authorized Toro Service Dealer, supply the following information.

1. Model and serial numbers of the trimmer.
2. Part number, description, and quantity of part(s) desired.

Note: Do not order by reference number if a parts catalog is being used; use PART NUMBER.

BEFORE OPERATING

CUTTING LINE

Note: The cutting line for your trimmer is a special monofilament line. Your trimmer comes complete with a supply of this line already wound onto the spool.

1. To avoid line tangle during shipment, the tip of the monofilament line has been taped to the head assembly (Fig. 2). **The tape must be removed before operation.**

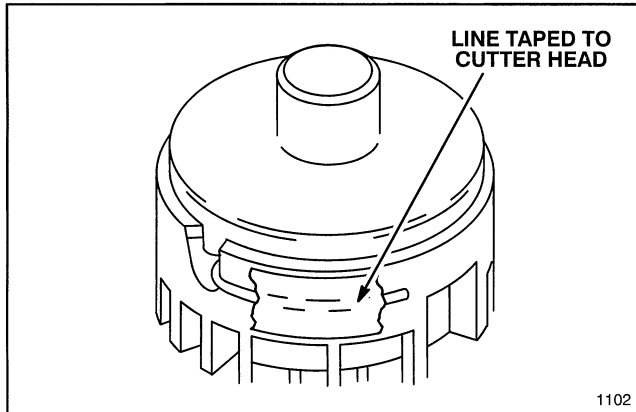


Figure 2

2. Remove tape from cutting knife on grass shield (Fig. 3).

**CAUTION**

- Cutting knife on grass shield is sharp.
- Contact with cutting knife could cause personal injury.
- Be careful when handling shield. Avoid contact with knife blade.

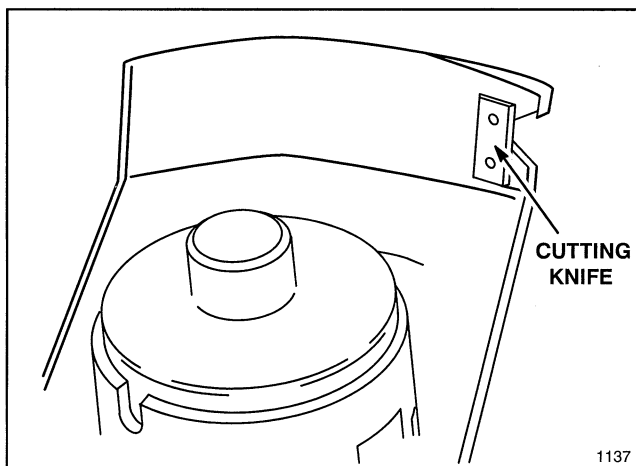


Figure 3

SECURING EXTENSION CORD

Note: The proper extension cord is a requirement for safe and efficient use of your Toro trimmer. Use only a UL listed extension cord recommended for outdoor use. Refer to Extension Cord Chart on page 2.

1. Your trimmer has a polarized plug. This means one prong in the plug is larger than the other (Fig. 4). When connecting the end of a suitable extension cord to the trimmer plug, be sure to insert the enlarged prong into the wide slot in the extension cord end.

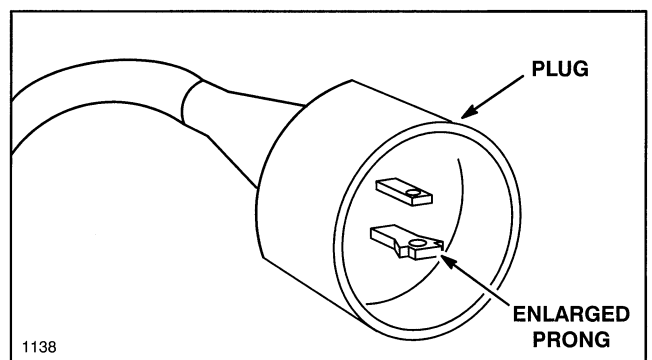


Figure 4

2. Secure the trimmer power cord and a suitable extension cord as shown in Figure 5.

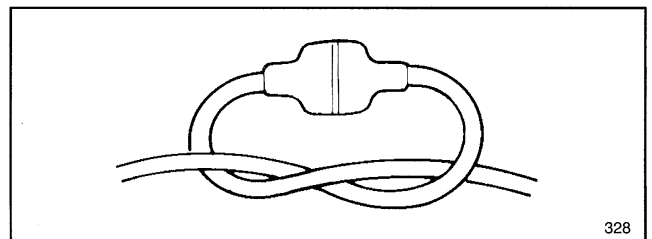



Figure 5

**WARNING**

- Never use an electrical cord that is damaged.
- A damaged electrical cord could cause a shock or fire.
- Thoroughly inspect electrical cord before using trimmer. If cord is damaged, do not operate trimmer. Replace or repair damaged cord immediately. Contact your TORO service dealer for assistance.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

WARNING

- Objects can be thrown by the trimmer while it is in operation.
- Thrown objects could cause injury to the operator or bystanders.
- Always wear safety goggles or other suitable eye protection, long pants and shoes while operating trimmer.
- Keep people and pets away from trimming area.

Your trimmer will cut grass and small weeds in difficult and hard to reach places. However, you will most likely experience some line breakage during your first few uses. As you learn the trimming techniques, you will be able to cut areas around trees, shrubs, foundation walls, fences, sidewalks, patios, etc., with minimal line wear or line breakage.

1. Inspect area to be trimmed for any wire, cord, or string-like matter which could become entangled in the rotating line. Also pick up any objects or debris that could be thrown by the trimmer.
2. Lay out the extension cord so that it won't be in your way and to prevent kinking or tangling.
3. Trim only when grass and weeds are dry.
4. Slowly move unit in and out of area being cut, maintaining unit at desired cutting height. This can be either a forward-backward or side-to-side motion as indicated in Figures 6 & 7.

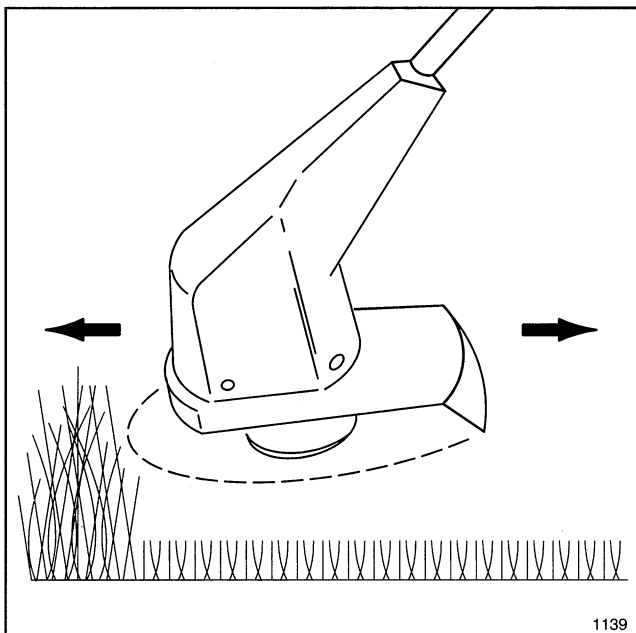


Figure 6

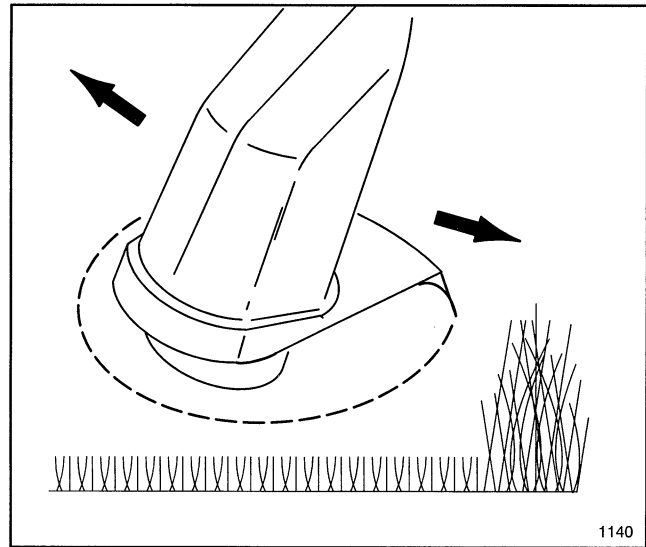


Figure 7

5. Grass in excess of eight inches tall or small weeds should be cut by working from the top to the bottom in small increments to avoid premature line wear.

6. **DO NOT FORCE THE UNIT.** Allow the very tip of the nylon line to do the cutting (especially along walls) (Fig. 8). Cutting with more than the tip will reduce cutting efficiency and overload the motor.

The tip of the cutting line will wear during use and cause a reduction in the cutting swath. If the line is not advanced occasionally, it will wear down to the metal eyelet. When the trimmer is stopped, the line tends to **relax** and **may retract into the cutter head**. Should this occur, remove spool, refeed the line through the metal eyelet, and reassemble spool to trimmer.

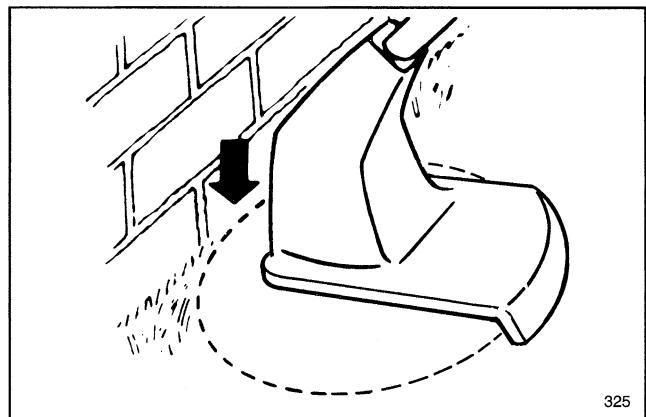


Figure 8

7. The life of your cutting line is dependent upon following the preceding trimming techniques, as well as what is being cut, and where the cutting is being done. For example, line wears faster when trimming against a foundation wall as opposed to trimming around a tree.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Some line breakage will occur from moving unit too fast, from entanglement with foreign matter, from normal line fatigue, and from attempting to cut thick, stalky weeds in excess of the unit's capability. As cutting line wears, for best performance, lengthen as indicated in Lengthening Cutting Line procedure.

8. Never drag the trimmer spool on the ground while trimming (Fig. 9). This causes motor overload and spool wear.

9. After each use, feed out some line to prevent line from retracting into cutting head.

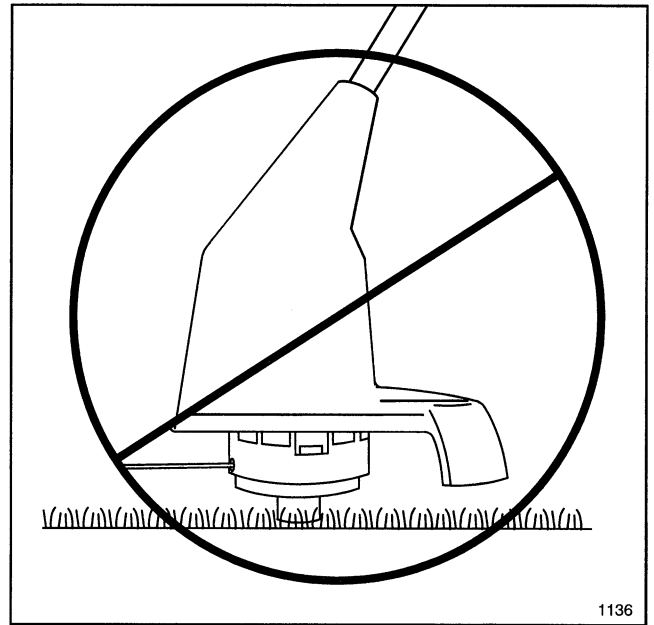


Figure 9

LENGTHENING CUTTING LINE

LENGTHENING CUTTING LINE

1. To lengthen line, firmly tap spool on the ground while the motor continues to run. The line will be fed from the spool and cut off to the proper length by the cutting knife attached to the shield (Fig. 10).

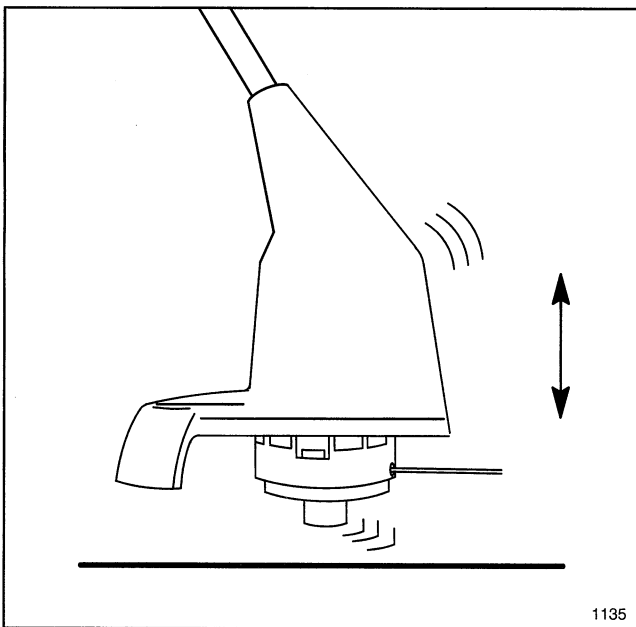


Figure 10

Remember to keep the trimmer 'on' while lengthening the line. Just tap the trimmer on the ground; do not hold it on the ground. After the line feeds out, wait until you hear the line being cut to the proper length before continuing to trim.

Note: To help prevent line tangle, tap only once to lengthen line. If additional line is required, wait a few seconds before retapping trimmer head. Do not allow line to wear too short. Keep line length at full cutting diameter as much as possible.

2. Lengthen line only when line has been shortened by wear. Unnecessary lengthening will waste line.

Note: The spool may wear during normal use of the line advance feature and may require occasional replacement. Replacement spools are available through your TORO retailer. See page 8 for accessories.

REPLACING CUTTING LINE

Prewound replacement spools can be purchased from your local Toro retailer. The cutting line used by Toro is specially formulated for use on your trimmer. Other line may not provide the same high quality performance.

CAUTION

- Use of improper monofilament line could result in personal injury.
- Do not use any type of wire or other string-like substance.
- Use only TORO .050" dia. nylon monofilament cutting line, 20 feet maximum.

WARNING

- When trimmer is in operation, the cutting head is rotating.
- Contact with rotating cutting head could cause personal injury.
- Always be sure cutting head has completely stopped rotating and trimmer is unplugged before inverting trimmer.
- Never activate trimmer when it is in an inverted position.

1. Disconnect trimmer from power source.

CAUTION

- Cutting knife on grass shield is sharp.
- Contact with cutting knife could cause personal injury.
- Be careful when removing spool. Avoid contact with knife blade.

2. To remove empty spool, invert trimmer, place hand over spool and press in tabs on each side of cap (Fig. 11).

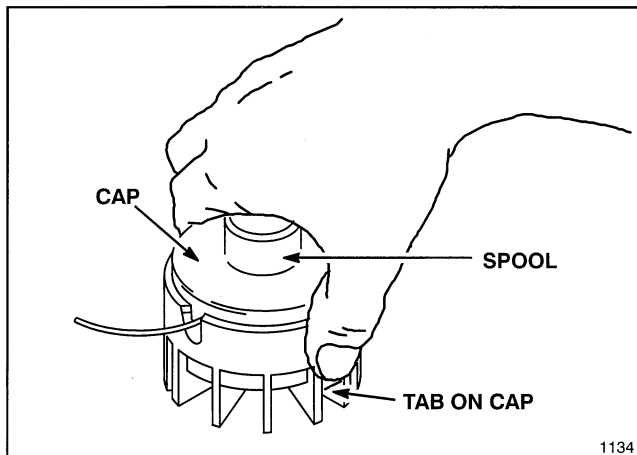


Figure 11

3. If there is any line on spool, hold free end of line with one hand to prevent spool from unraveling and with other hand grasp spool and lift off spool and cap together (Fig. 12).

Note: If spring falls off cutter head during this procedure, reinstall spring before reinstalling spool and cap.

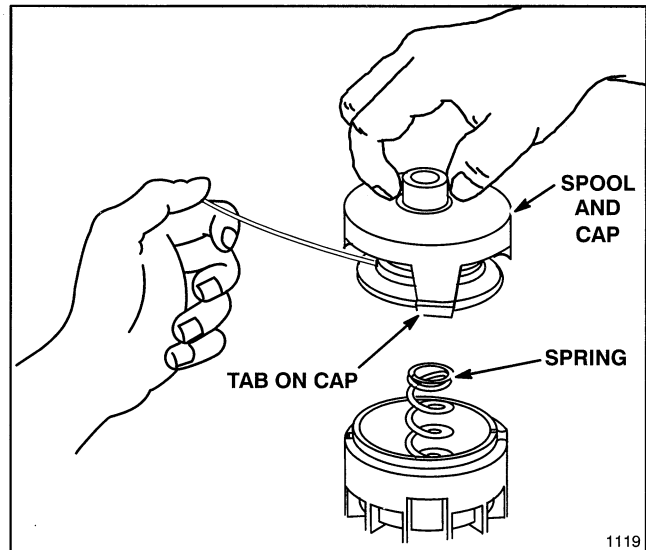


Figure 12

Note: Before reinstalling spool, be sure to thoroughly clean out cutter head and visually inspect for any damaged or worn parts.

4. Unwind no more than three inches of line from new spool and hold line and spool to prevent unraveling.
5. Place cap on spool.
6. Insert line into metal eyelet in cutter head (Fig. 13) and hold line with one hand while using your other hand to place spool and cap on spring. Align cap tabs with slots in cutter head, press in tabs and push down cap and spool to lock cap in place (Fig. 13).

Note: Spool may need to be rotated slightly to allow it to be fully installed.

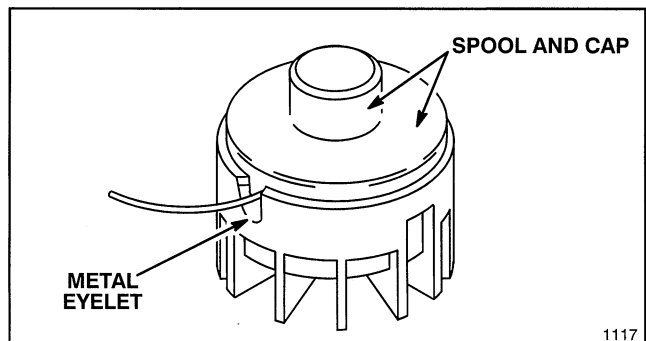


Figure 13

REPLACING CUTTING LINE



CAUTION

- An improperly installed cap or spool could fly off trimmer.
- Contact with a thrown spool could cause injury to the operator or bystanders.
- Be sure spool is fully secured before operating the unit. Replace spool if it is damaged or if cap does not securely snap onto cutter head.
- Keep bystanders and pets away from trimming area.

7. If line should tangle or break at metal eyelet, unplug trimmer, remove spool completely, refeed the line through eyelet, and reassemble spool to trimmer.

REWINDING EMPTY SPOOLS

Replacement line can be purchased from your local Toro retailer. To rewind an empty spool, follow the steps below:

1. Hook one end of line into slot on spool, **allowing no more than 1/8" to protrude. Push end of line all the way to the inner end of slot.** Wind line in direction of arrow on spool in level rows between spool flanges (Fig. 14).

Note: Trimmer will not function properly if line is wound in the wrong direction or if end of line protrudes more than 1/8" at inner end of slot.

2. Do not wind line beyond outer edges of spool; trimmer will not function properly.

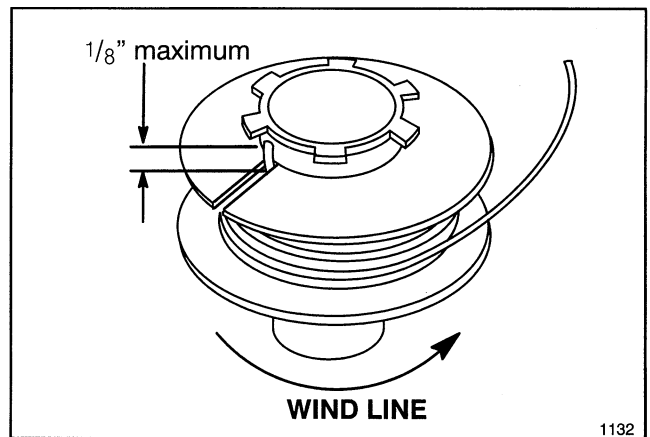


Figure 14

GENERAL MAINTENANCE



WARNING

- There is the possibility that trimmer could be inadvertently started when the electrical cord is plugged into an electrical socket.
- Inadvertent starting could cause personal injury to operator or bystanders.
- Always be sure your trimmer is unplugged and the cutting head has stopped rotating before attempting any maintenance or repairs.

1. To keep the exterior clean, just wipe it off with a damp cloth. **Never hose it down.**

2. Wipe or scrape clean the cutter head and spool area any time there is an accumulation of dirt or cuttings.

3. Check and tighten all fasteners. If any part is damaged or lost, repair or replace it.

4. Wipe debris away from air intake vents in motor housing (Fig. 15).

IMPORTANT: Keeping air intake vents free of grass and debris prevents motor overheating and possible failure.

5. Any other servicing should be performed by an authorized Toro Service Dealer.

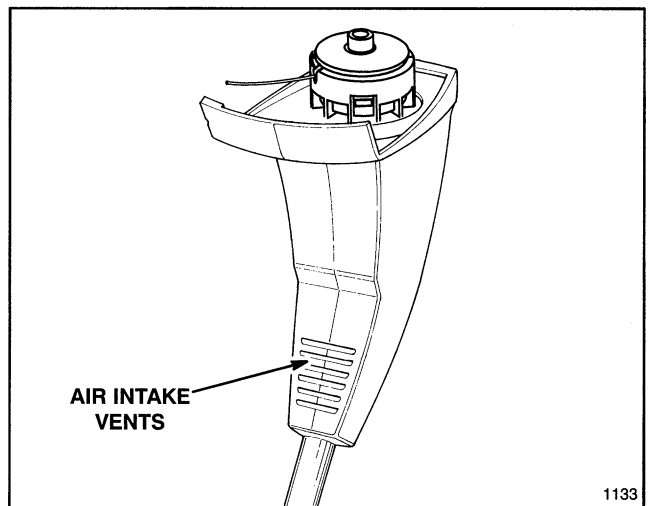


Figure 15

ACCESSORIES

REPLACEMENT PART NUMBERS		
PREWOUND SPOOL	EMPTY SPOOL	COIL OF CUTTING LINE
Model #88170	Part #73-8240	30' of .050" Model #88011

The Toro Promise

A Two Year Full Residential Use Warranty

The Toro Company warrants this TORO Product for two years against defects in material or workmanship. To receive a replacement or repair, at Toro's option, just return the complete unit, postage prepaid, to the seller or any TORO Electric Service Dealer or the TORO Service Center, 5300 Shoreline Blvd., Mound, MN 55364, along with proof of purchase. This warranty covers product defects only. It does not cover incidental or consequential damages. **Some states do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitation may not apply to you.** This warranty gives you specific rights, and you may have other rights which vary from state to state.

COUNTRIES OTHER THAN THE UNITED STATES OR CANADA

Customers who have purchased TORO products exported from the United States or Canada should contact their TORO Distributor (Dealer) to obtain guarantee policies for your country, province, or state. If for any reason you are dissatisfied with your Distributor's service or have difficulty obtaining guarantee information, contact the TORO importer. If all other remedies fail, you may contact us at The Toro Company.