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# Heavy Breaker

**The rules and procedures in force where people are at work may require the person responsible for this equipment to carry out a specific risk assessment.**

## It is important to read all of this leaflet

## BEFORE you use the Breaker

1. Electricity is dangerous and must always be used with great care.
2. This heavy duty breaker is designed for breaking up roadwork, concrete and asphalt surfaces; and compacting, using the appropriate tools.
3. The action of this breaker can cause injury or damage if the machine is not used in a careful and controlled way.
4. If operators have not used a breaker before, they should familiarize themselves with the machine on some straightforward work before starting on the main task.
5. The work should be planned ahead and thought out to make sure that it will be carried out safely.
6. The following items of personal protective equipment must be worn as a minimum:
   Impact resistant goggles
   Dust mask
   Ear muffs
   Safety boots
   Gloves
7. This machine must not be used by minors, or by anyone under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
8. This breaker is designed for operation by an able bodied adult. Anyone with either temporary or permanent disability must seek expert advice before using it.

# Using the Breaker

1. Wear protective equipment including ear defenders and goggles.
2. The breaker should not be switched on until the tool is on the work surface. It should not be switched on if the tool has no load.
3. Keep the cable clear of the tool bit and any sharp edges on the work.
4. Watch out for signs that vibration may be affecting the hands. If fingers start to tingle or feel numb operators should take a short break from using the machine. Fingers should be exercised to encourage blood flow.
5. To help prevent vibration affecting the hands, the machine should be operated for shorter periods. Hands should be kept warm – wearing gloves may help to do this.
6. If operators think the cable may be cut or damaged in any way, the machine must be switched off and unplugged before inspecting it.
7. Care should be taken not to accidentally pull the plug from the socket.
8. Switch off and remove the plug from the socket before leaving the breaker unattended.
9. If the equipment does not work properly do not attempt to repair it. Contact the hire company.

***Please keep this leaflet safely as it may be required for reference at a future date***



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# Before Starting Work...

## WORK AREA

1. Do not use this breaker where there is a danger of explosion. It will ignite fumes from petrol, or gas cylinders.
2. Make sure that the area is clear and safe and that no-one is nearby who could cause a distraction.
3. Protect other people from the noise, debris and dust. Warn others to keep away, put barriers around the work area.
4. Check that there are no buried electric cables, gas or water pipes where the work is being carried out.
5. Breaking brick and masonry makes a large amount of dust and debris, cover any surfaces or objects that may be damaged, or difficult to clean.

## OPERATORS

1. The following items of personal protective equipment (ppe) are the minimum that should be worn whenever this machine is used. Particular jobs or environments may require a higher level of protection.
2. Impact resistant goggles must be worn when using this machine.
3. This equipment is likely to cause noise levels up to 102 dB(A) – appropriate ear muffs or plugs giving protection up to this level must be worn as a minimum.
4. An appropriate dust mask is required when breaking material that causes dust.
5. Safety boots must be worn
6. Anybody working nearby will also need to wear personal protective equipment.

## BREAKER

1. Check the machine, cables, plugs and tool bits. If anything is found to be damaged, do not use the breaker – contact the hire company.
2. Check that the plug on the machine matches the available supply. Connections must not be forced or improvised.
3. Machines with a cylindrical yellow industrial plug fitted are designed to run off a special 110v supply. The hire company will have provided a portable transformer if the machine needs to be powered from a normal mains 230v supply. If a portable transformer has been supplied, care must be taken when moving it as it may be heavier than it looks and could cause injury. Machines designed to run directly from 230v mains will have either a normal square pin plug fitted, or a blue industrial plug.
4. The breaker should always be gripped with two hands while working.
5. Vibration from using this breaker can be hazardous. Hands should be warmed up before starting work, and gloves should be worn to keep hands warm whilst working.
6. This breaker must only be used pointing down, on floors or roads.
7. Operators should check how the on/off switch operates – before switching the breaker on it must be known how to stop it.

## TOOL BITS

1. Switch the breaker off, and unplug it before changing the tool bit.
2. The tool shank should be clean and lightly oiled before insertion into the breaker.
3. Only the correct tool bits specifically for this breaker must be used. No other tool bits should be used.

### ELECTRICAL SAFETY

The machine will only operate on one voltage; it will be 110v or 230v.
110v machines will have a yellow industrial plug fitted. 230v machines will have either a normal square pin plug fitted, or a blue industrial plug.
Read the instructions below for the machine.

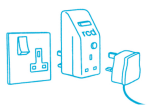
### 110 VOLT MACHINES (YELLOW PLUG)

1. If using a portable transformer, plug the transformer directly into the 230v socket. Do not use any 230v extension cables.
2. If an extension cable is needed, follow any special instructions given by the hire company. If the hire company have not given any special instruction, only a suitably rated heavy duty 110v extension cable should be used, not longer than 50 metres (160 feet). The extension cable must only be used between the transformer and the machine.

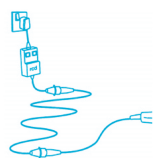
3. The extension cable should be laid out carefully, avoiding liquids, sharp edges, doorways or windows where it might be trapped, and places where vehicles might run over it. It should be fully unrolled or it will overheat and could catch fire.
4. Extension cable connections must be kept dry and safe.

### 230 VOLT MACHINES (SQUARE PIN OR BLUE PLUG)

1. Use a residual current device ("rcd") plugged directly in to the 230v socket. Plug the machine into the rcd. This will help to protect against electric shock if the cable or machine get damaged.



2. Use the "TEST" button to check that the rcd is working each time the machine is used. Reset the rcd according to the instructions supplied with it.
3. If an extension cable is needed, only a suitable rated heavy duty cable should be used, not longer than 50 meters (160 feet). Plug it directly into the rcd.



4. The extension cable should be laid out carefully avoiding liquids, sharp edges, doorways or windows where it might be trapped, and places where vehicles might run over it.
   It should be fully unrolled or it will overheat and could catch fire.
5. Extension cable connections must be kept dry and safe.

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# Portable Transformer

**The rules and procedures in force where people are at work may require the person responsible for this equipment to carry out a specific risk assessment.**

## It is important to read all of this leaflet

## BEFORE you use the Transformer

1. Plan work ahead to ensure safe working at all times.
2. Electricity is dangerous and must always be used with great care.
3. The transformer is designed to reduce mains voltage to a lower, safer value. It can supply electricity safely up to its rated power.
4. Do not use it to do anything else – misuse or damage can cause electric shock or fire.

## BEFORE STARTING WORK

1. Check the transformer case, plug and cable. Do not use if found to be damaged in any way – contact the hire company.
2. The transformer will get warm in use. Air vents in the case must be kept clear at all times. Make sure the heat from the transformer will not damage any floor coverings that it is standing on.
3. Do not use the transformer where there is a danger of explosion. It will ignite fumes from petrol or gas cylinders.
4. The transformer may switch itself off if it gets too hot. Allow the transformer to cool down and reset the trip switch before using again.

*Continued overleaf...*

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*For guidance on managing construction health risks go to*
**www.hse.gov.uk/construction**

## BEFORE STARTING WORK *Continued*

***5.*** Check the transformer's power rating against the power usage of the tools being used.

***6.*** The transformer's rating will be shown on the case. "1kvA" means it can supply approx. 800 watts, "2kvA" means it can supply approx. 1600 watts. Check the labels on the tools to find their power usage.

***7.*** The transformer can supply portable tools in normal use up to this power. The short pauses that are common when using a portable tool will prevent the transformer from getting too hot.

***8***. Distribution boxes can be used to supply two or three tools together, as long as their total power usage is less than the transformers power rating.

***9***. Equipment which uses power all the time, eg. Floodlights, may cause problems. The transformer can only safely supply about half its rated power to a continuous load like this.

***10***. The transformer and any cable connections should be in a dry and safe place. Ensure no vehicles will run over the cable.

***11***. Only use extension cables on the 110v side when working away from the 230v mains socket. The transformer should stay plugged directly into the 230v mains socket.

**NOTE: When using a portable transformer to power heaters it is advisable to use a more suitable vented continuous transformer.**

## OPERATING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

***Q.*** Why should I use a transformer at all?

***A.*** The transformer reduces the voltage of the electricity supply to a much safer value. A shock from a damaged 110 volt cable or tool will be much less dangerous than one from a 230 volt supply. But the tool used must be made for use on 110 volts.

***Q.*** What about residual current device?

***A.*** You can use an rcd (residual current device) at the 230v supply to give additional protection on the 230v cable and transformer case (if metal). An rcd will not give protection on the 110v cable

***Keep this leaflet in a safe place until work is finished as it may need to be referred to again.***

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