

YARD WORK SAFETY TIPS



Warmer weather encourages us to be outdoors. That can include getting our yards ready to enjoy. Summer home maintenance presents several hazards to be aware of. Awareness and proactive measures can significantly reduce these risks and create a safer home environment for you and your loved ones. Below are some common hazards and tips to keep you safe. Prioritizing safety while maintaining your yard greatly reduces accidents and let's you enjoy a beautiful outdoor space!

A FEW TIPS TO CONSIDER:

- Falls: Falls are a significant hazard in any outdoor environment. Wet surfaces, slippery stairs, and scattered toys can all contribute to falls. To minimize risks:
 - Ensure staircases have solid handrails, adequate lighting, free from debris and safety gates for small children, if needed.
 - Minimize outdoor clutter by having an outdoor toybox or area where outside items can be kept away so they do not become a tripping hazard.
- Burns: Sunburns, hot surfaces (like grills), and scalding water can cause burns. Use sunscreen, handle hot objects with care, and adjust water heater temperatures.
- Poisoning: Store chemicals, cleaning agents, and pesticides securely. Keep them away from children and follow proper handling procedures.
- Back Problems: Hours of bending over, lifting heavy bags of mulch, and tilling soil can strain your back. Use your body lifting techniques!
- Insect Bites: Working outdoors exposes you to bugs and potential diseases. Wear protective clothing and repellent if needed.
- Power Tools and Equipment Safety:
 - When using power tools (such as lawnmowers, trimmers, and edgers), follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully.
 - Inspect equipment before use to ensure it's in good working order and safety guards are in place.
 - Remove rocks, sticks, toys, and tools from the lawn before operating power equipment.
 - Never operate power tools with frayed cords or during wet conditions to avoid electric shock.
 - Keep children away from the mowing area and never allow them to operate or ride a lawnmower.
 - Be cautious when clearing clogged debris from lawnmower blades to prevent injuries.
 - Wear protective gear, including closed-toe shoes, safety glasses, and hearing protection¹².
- Have your summer safety kit handy, including sunscreen, bug repellent and bandages.