

Winter Storage of Engines and Equipment

When you do not plan to use your vehicle or equipment for some time, it should be stored in a dry and protected place. Unnecessary exposure to the elements may deteriorate its appearance and shorten the usual service life.

1. Operate the engine until the fuel is completely consumed.
2. Drain the fuel from the fuel tank. After draining the fuel, back flush the inline fuel filter.
3. While the engine is still warm, drain the oil from the crankcase and refill with fresh oil (see "Engine" manual).
4. Clean exterior of engine. Paint the exposed metal or coat with a light coating of rust preventive oil. Use oil that complies with SAE #30 MIL-L-21260 Standards.
5. Wash, clean and completely lubricate the tractor. Refer to the charts in the "Lubrication" section. Paint the exposed metal or brush a light coat of rust preventive oil over unpainted metal.

Battery

Refer to manufacturer's manual for specific instructions. Remove battery and clean it; store in upright position. Maintenance-free batteries should be stored in a cool, dry place. Storage above 80 degrees greatly increases self-discharge. If wet batteries are discharged, the electrolyte will freeze when stored below 20 degrees. **IMPORTANT** - The battery should be checked every 60 to 90 days while in storage, and should be recharged if necessary.

Tires

Before storing the vehicle, clean the tires thoroughly. Jack up the vehicle so the load is off the tires.

1. If it is not jacked up, check the tires at regular intervals and reinflate as necessary to keep them at the recommended pressure.
2. Store the vehicle so tires are protected from sunlight.

Starting after Storage

1. Check and recharge the battery according to recommendations given in the battery booklet. Reinstall the battery.
2. Clean the fuel filter and drain water from fuel tank.
3. Service the air cleaner and check the radiator water level.
4. Check level of oil in the engine crankcase and hydraulic system.
5. Fill the fuel tank with fresh fuel.
6. Before driving the vehicle, make certain the tires are inflated to the proper pressure.
7. Either move the vehicle outside before starting engine or keep doors and/or windows wide open to provide sufficient ventilation to prevent danger from carbon monoxide gas in the exhaust.

Start the engine but do not operate at high speed immediately after starting. Allow time for it to become properly warmed and lubricated.

Long Storage

Before storing the engine for more than a few months, remove any dirt on the machine and:

1. Drain the coolant in the radiator. Open the cock at the bottom of the radiator, and remove the pressure caps to drain

water completely. Leave the cock open. Hang a note ("No water") on the pressure caps. Since water may freeze when the temperature drops below 32 degrees, it is very important no water is left in the machine.

2. Always set the accelerator lever on "Stop." Should the decompression lever be pushed, and compression reduced while the engine is stopped, starting the next time may be not only difficult but impossible.

3. Remove dirty engine oil, fill with new oil and run the engine for about 5 minutes to let the oil penetrate to all the parts.

4. Check all the nuts and bolts, and tighten if necessary.

5. Remove the battery from the engine, recharge it and adjust the electrolyte level. Store the battery in a dry and dark place.

Storing Tractor with Mowers

The outrigger and wing units should be stored in the raised position. Tie mowers in this position to relieve strain on hydraulic system. The front and center units are stored in the lower position on blocks so weight is not on tires. Store where tires will be protected from sunlight.

Mower Storage

Read "Storage" section of operator's manual for your "Hydraulic Reel Mower."

—Larry Evans, *Lawn & Turf*

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