

Basic Items to Stock

Oils:

Engine — Universal fleet oil 15W-40. Uses from small four-cycle to heavy truck.

Automatic transmission fluid — Dextron III/Mercon Universal ATF.

Hydraulic — HydraTrans Universal in all AW32 through AW68 and tractor transmission oil.

Note: Most small equipment hydraulic systems call for engine oil 10W-30, 10W-40 or a synthetic.

Miscellaneous supplies: Nuts, bolts, washers, pin clips, clamps, electrical terminals, wire tape.

Parts: Relative to your brand of equipment, your dealer will be able to help you in the most commonly used parts to stock.

Note: Small equipment — backpack blowers, string trimmers, hedge trimmers, etc. are units that you can double-up on to allow rotation for repair and maintenance. Also, this will give you extra equipment for weather-related increased production.



UNDERSTAND CARRYING COSTS

The breakdown of a typical inventory carrying cost is below:

Cost of storage, rent, building depreciation, maintenance and repair4%

Cost of inventory supplies, shelves, bins, record, and taxes.....1%

Cost of insurance2%

Employee costs, salaries.....11%

Obsolescence, damaged or nonreturnable parts, pilferage, time spent returning parts for credit and warranty claims.....5%

Money costs, lack of return on inventory and control investments that otherwise produce income (opportunity costs).....10%

The daily check list

- Clean the air filter.
- Inspect the engine shrouding for any problems that could interfere with the flow of cooling air.
- Check the air filter cover and air filter box for any broken or missing pieces that would allow unfiltered air to enter the engine and cause damage.
- Do a complete check over the unit and tighten any hardware that may have come loose the day before.
- Blow debris off the housing around the engine. Inspect for grass and debris between the gear housing and string head. Neglect here can create heat that may possibly cause loss of power and damage the gear box or cutter head.
- On trimmers, check the string guard for any broken or missing parts. Many users risk damaging the trimmer when they take off the string guards. Not only is this a safety concern for the user, but a unit without a shield can allow too much line out and may overload an engine not designed for such a heavy load.
- Lastly, inspect the throttle and operating controls for proper operation and visually inspect the shaft for damage or cracks.

EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE BASED ON MILEAGE OR TIME

Trucks

Based on manufacturer's recommendation:

3,500 to 5,000 miles/ 3 to 6 months

200 to 400 hours/ 1 year

- Lubrication
- Minor repairs
- Oil change
- Tire pressure

MAJOR SERVICE/WINTER

Based on manufacturer's recommendation:

15,000 to 30,000 miles/ 1 to 2 years

1,200 to 2,400 hours

- Belts
- Brakes
- Cooling system
(Check radiator hoses)
- Exhaust
- Suspension
- Fuel filter
- Testing battery/
charging system
- Tires
- Tune up

Equipment

Based on manufacturer's recommendation:

25, 50, 100, 200 hours

1 to 3 months, 6 months to 1 year

- Lubrication
- Minor repairs
- Oil change
- Tire pressure

MAJOR SERVICE/SPRING

Based on manufacturer's recommendation:

250, 500, 750, 1,000 hours

3, 6, 9 months, 1 year

- Air-cooled engines
- Belts
- Cooling fins
- Decks: Belts, pulleys, stress cracks
- Drive systems
- Frame: Stress cracks, bearings, bushing
- Hydros: hoses, fluid leaks
- Water cooled engine: radiator/hoses

HOW DO YOUR LANDSCAPES RATE?

Formula: Rating x Weighting Factor = Score

Element	Your rating (0-10)		Weighting factor	=	Score
First impression		x	11	=	
Sustainability		x	10	=	
Function		x	9	=	
Visual flow		x	8	=	
Context to architecture		x	7	=	
Context to site		x	6	=	
Balance		x	5	=	
Depth		x	4	=	
Color		x	3	=	
Framing		x	2	=	
Contrast		x	1	=	
TOTAL					

LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT SAMPLE RATING

Formula: Rating x Weighting Factor = Score

Element	Sample rating (0-10)		Weighting factor	=	Score
First impression	9	x	11	=	99
Sustainability	9	x	10	=	90
Function	7	x	9	=	63
Visual flow	9	x	8	=	72
Context to architecture	7	x	7	=	49
Context to site	8	x	6	=	48
Balance	9	x	5	=	45
Depth	8	x	4	=	32
Color	9	x	3	=	27
Framing	8	x	2	=	16
Contrast	8	x	1	=	8
TOTAL =					549

Weekly peeks

Save time at the end of the work week to check these systems:

▶ Remove the engine shrouding and clean out the cylinder cooling fins. Dirty cylinder fins will hamper a unit's ability to cool itself and can reduce engine life or even cause seizures because heat won't dissipate as efficiently from the unit.

▶ Check the grease in the gear head to make sure it's at the proper level. If necessary, add grease until it reaches the level recommended by the manufacturer.

▶ On trimmers, inspect the starter rope for frays.

▶ Remove spark plugs; clean and replace if necessary.

▶ Check the fuel lines for cuts, deterioration or other damage.

▶ Remove the fuel filter and inspect it for any physical breaks or cracks and replace the filter according to the manufacturer's guidelines.

▶ Use a tachometer and check the engine's RPM at idle and at wide-open throttle. When checking your unit at wide-open throttle, refer to the manufacturer's guidelines to determine if these should be done with the line extended, or with the manufacturer's recommended line size.

▶ If the unit features anti vibration systems, check the rubber or spring mounts to make sure they're secure and free of cracks.

▶ On trimmers, inspect the string head and the bump knob. Check the knob and the eyelets for wear. Also, inspect the spool and housing for breaks or cracks. Never use a string head or blade with a visible crack or break.