



Stump Grinder

Stump grinders use a rotating cutting disc or wheel to grind away stump wood and surface roots to below ground level. Figure below shows an example of a stump grinder.

Example of a stump grinder



Stump grinders can create hazards for workers and other people who may be near the stump grinding operation. Table below outlines some common hazards associated with this work.

Common hazards and risks of stump grinder operation

- roll-over of plant
- coming into contact with grinding disc or wheel
- being struck by ejected material
- exposure to noise from the stump grinder
- arm or hand vibration
- manual handling injuries
- dust inhalation
- contact with live underground services



Before stump grinding is carried out a number of precautions should be considered including:

- Checking for underground services around the stump (call Dial Before You Dig).
- Establishing an exclusion zone.
- Looking for loose stones, pipes, metal, concrete or other debris that could affect the safe operation of the machine or become dangerous projectiles.
- Manually excavating and exposing buttress roots.
- Ensuring machine guards and debris curtains are suitable to the task and securely in place.
- Making sure teeth and teeth mounting pockets on the cutting wheel are sharp and secure.
- Checking the safety cut-off or emergency stop is in working order during the pre-start check each time the grinder is used.

The operator must be fully trained in the stump grinder's operation including any safety features and the manufacturer's instructions. Contact with the stump should be with the lower-outer quadrant of the grinding wheel to prevent a kickback reaction.

Stump grinders should be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Respiratory protection should be used for dust and when chemicals have been used to poison stumps.

A protective screen or barrier (see below) should be set up to separate people from the stump grinding operation. The barriers should also stop flying debris and warn people stump grinding is in progress.

When stump grinding operations are carried out close to road verges or footpaths the cutting head should be positioned to direct wood chips away from passing traffic and pedestrians.



Protective barriers separating people from stump grinding operations.

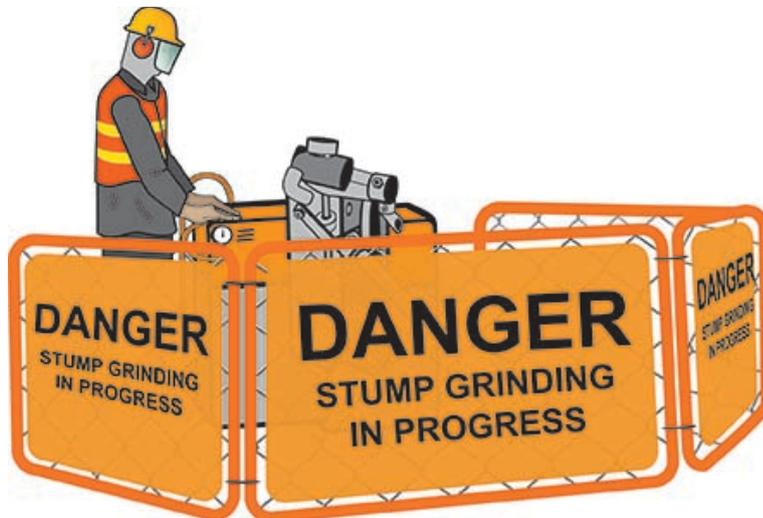


Table below outlines control measures for stump grinder operation.

Examples of control measures for stump grinder operation

- Setting up an exclusion zone to ensure pedestrians are kept a safe distance from stump grinder operations.
- Not leaving the controls while the cutting wheel is moving.
- Avoiding working downhill from the machine wherever possible.
- Ensuring the cutting wheel is not moving before cleaning excess grindings away from the grinding area.
- Stopping the machine, isolating the power and waiting for moving parts to stop spinning before attempting to clear blockages.
- Wearing PPE e.g. respiratory, eye, hearing and foot protection.

Control measures may be needed to ensure excavations do not create a trip hazard for pedestrians or other workers once the stump grinding operations are completed.