

# Now you can do-it-yourself...

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## MOWING MADE EASY

### What items you will need...

- Lawn Mower
- Operator's Manual
- Safety Glasses
- FreshStart® Gas Cap and Cartridge
- Work Gloves

### Important information...

#### Always:

- Refer to your operator's manual to make sure you are operating your mower correctly and safely.
- Wear appropriate clothing when you mow – long pants and sturdy shoes (never sandals or open-toed shoes). Work gloves and safety glasses are recommended.
- Never start your mower in a garage, shed or other building. Also, be cautious when adding fuel. Only add fuel when the mower is turned off and cool, and only do this outdoors.
- Please visit the Lawn Mower Safety Tutorial for more information on lawn mower safety.

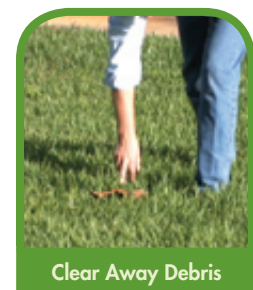
### Things to consider...

It's easy – and important – to mow your lawn correctly. Proper mowing and trimming are your first lines of defense against weeds, pests and lawn disease. While you may think you are just "cutting the grass" you are actually creating a healthy environment for lawn growth every time you mow correctly.

### Steps...

#### 1 Clear the Area

Remove any objects or debris from the mowing area. Be sure children and pets are inside the house.



Clear Away Debris

#### 2 Check for Oil

If you're using the mower for the first time, be sure to check the oil and add it if needed. Many new mowers are shipped without oil in them, and running a mower without oil will severely damage the engine. Once you add oil to a new mower, check the oil level after five hours of operation. On your existing mower, check the oil regularly and change it after about 25 hours of operation under normal (not extremely hot or dusty) conditions.



Check Oil

# Now you can *do-it-yourself...*

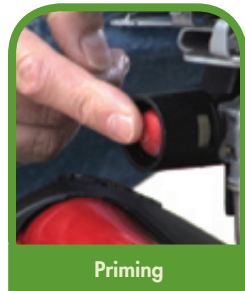
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## Steps (con't.)

### 3 Priming and choking

Most walk-behind mowers require priming and choking to start the engine. This provides the right mixture of fuel and air for combustion when you pull the starter cord. Refer to your operator's manual for instructions on how to prime and choke your mower.



Priming

### 4 Starting your Mower

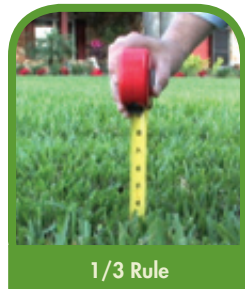
A new mower, and a mower that is tuned up each year, should start quickly. If it takes many pulls to start your mower, review the starting procedure in your operator's manual. Stale gas is the number one reason a mower won't start. Gas only stays fresh for about 30 days. You can keep your gas fresh longer by adding a fuel freshener to the gas tank or by using a FreshStart<sup>®</sup> gas cap, which automatically drips freshener into the fuel. You can learn more about doing a tune-up at [www.equipmentknowhow.com](http://www.equipmentknowhow.com).



FreshStart<sup>®</sup> Gas Cap

### 5 Correct Mowing Height

When you mow your lawn, follow the one-third rule: Cut only one-third of the length of the grass blade in any one mowing. If your lawn is three inches tall, this means you will only want to cut off one inch. If your lawn is very long, you may have to mow twice within a few days, cutting no more than one-third the length of the grass each time. You can easily adjust your mower deck so that it only cuts the amount of grass you want to cut. Never scalp your lawn (cutting the grass very short) – this injures and stresses your lawn, making it easier for pests and disease to take hold.



1/3 Rule

### 6 Mowing Direction

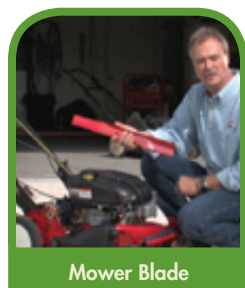
Change your mowing direction from week to week. If you cut the lawn from north to south last week, mow east to west this week. This helps you achieve an even cut and prevents wheel ruts from forming.



Change Direction

### 7 Keep the Mower Blade Sharp

Finally, always be sure your lawn mower blade is sharp. A dull blade tears the grass rather than cutting it cleanly. Damaged grass blades are always more susceptible to pests and disease. The easiest and safest way to assure a sharp mower blade is to have a professional sharpen it once a year.



Mower Blade