

Garden Safety



The garden is a place for everyone to enjoy, but it can also be a place where accidents happen. Did you know that during the Summer, one in five accidents happen in the garden! Many of these involve children. To make sure that we all remain safe while working in the garden, please take a minute to read these safety tips:

Do ...

- ▶ Wear appropriate footwear, steel toe cap boots, gardening gloves, ear defenders and goggles when using the lawnmower, strimmer, hedge trimmer or similar.
- ▶ Always place the cable of electrical equipment over your shoulder and keep it behind you at all times.
- ▶ Wear a face mask if you are using compost and you have a lowered immune system; chest problems etc.
- ▶ Work a safe distance away from people and pets when using garden equipment and always watch out for any children in the area.
- ▶ Make sure that any electrical equipment or extension cords are designed for outdoor use and are in good condition.
- ▶ Make sure ladders are placed on a level surface and are held or secured in place.
- ▶ Make sure electrical switches on all garden equipment are switched OFF before plugging them in.
- ▶ Use residual current devices (RCDs) for all outdoor electrical equipment and test these regularly using the "Test" button.
- ▶ Prevent trip and falls by providing safety rails and barriers and make sure paths are free from moss.
- ▶ Cover up, wear a hat and use sun block.
- ▶ Keep barbeques away from trees, buildings, washing lines and fences.
- ▶ Watch out when using adhesives, solvents, weedkiller or pesticides when children or pets are around. Always follow the instructions on the label and store carefully.



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- ▶ Protect yourself while using electrical equipment outdoors by installing a special socket or a plug-in adaptor if your electricity supply does not have an RCD trip box.
 - ▶ Make sure you know which plants in your garden are poisonous and keep children and pets away from them. To find out more on poisonous plants check the Real Gardeners website www.realgardeners.co.uk
 - ▶ Have safety nets and pads fitted to trampolines and keep them away from walls, washing lines and hard surfaces.
 - ▶ Empty paddling pools when not in use, and secure any pond areas so that children cannot access them.

Don't ...

- ▶ Use electrical tools in wet or damp conditions or when you are barefoot or wearing sandals.
- ▶ Set bonfires - these can quickly get out of hand.
- ▶ Leave tools or lawnmowers unattended.
- ▶ Leave any electrical equipment unattended.
- ▶ Try and fix any faulty electrical equipment yourself.
- ▶ Overreach when on a ladder or while using a hedge-trimmer. You should never work higher than shoulder level.
- ▶ Transfer any substances to alternative containers that could confuse people and lead to poisoning.
- ▶ Leave small children unattended. A child can drown in 4cm of water - that is the same as a puddle or a bucket which has filled with rainwater.

