

Bobcat/Kubota Loader/Skid Steer – Instructions for Use

SAFETY FIRST

If you are collecting the equipment for someone else please make sure this sheet is given to the equipment user to read. This sheet should be given to the site supervisor if the equipment is being hired for commercial use so that the information is available to all users. Before starting any job, be sure to spend a few minutes planning and understanding the hazards and risks of the activity and determining how you will control them to prevent injury or damage.

Required Safety Equipment



Pre-Start Checks and Safety

- Ensure fuel tank is full (diesel)
- Check correct engine and hydraulics oil levels
- Check correct radiator and reserve tank water levels
- Ensure grease points lubricated
- Check for hydraulic and engine oil leaks
- Check rubber track tension
- Check the work area for underground services and overhead obstructions
- Always keep machine level (i.e. side to side) and on firm non slippery undulating surfaces
- Do not allow inexperienced persons to operate unit
- Do not leave machine running and unattended
- Always place bucket on ground when unattended
- Keep people well away from the work area
- Keep all body parts within cab area while operating
- Always keep seat belt fasted
- Do not use in confined areas
- Take extreme caution when turning on slopes
- Do not overload machine
- Always travel at a safe speed for the job
- Do not allow people to ride on machine

Starting Procedure

1. Fasten seat belt snugly
2. Lower the seat safety bar/bars.
3. Ensure park brake is on
4. Make sure the controls are in the neutral (centre) position
5. Place throttle at approx. half position
6. Turn ignition to "On" (check warning lights are on)
7. Turn key to preheat for approx 10-20 seconds (cold start)
8. Turn ignition key to start
9. When engine is running check warning lights are off
10. Move throttle lever to idle position and allow machine to warm up for five minutes

When Operating

- Move throttle lever to increase engine RPM to a speed that feels comfortable to you
- Release the park brake
- Familiarise yourself with the operation of the levers
- Do not travel with the bucket raised up high

Stopping and After Use

- Park the machine in a safe place and on level ground
- Lower the lift arms and put the bucket on the ground
- Decrease engine speed and allow engine to idle for three minutes to cool engine and hydraulics
- Engage the park brake
- Switch off ignition
- Raise the seat safety bar
- Unfasten seat belt and remove

SAFE LOADING OF THE MACHINE AND EQUIPMENT ONTO A TRAILER

1. Make sure the trailer hitch size matches the tow ball.
2. Ensure the correct TARE weight trailer is used for the size of machine being transported.
3. Off load items to the back of the vehicle if possible, to ensure the weight of the trailer and equipment matches the towing capacity of the vehicle.
4. Make sure the trailer is on firm ground in a straight position with the brakes on.
5. Put chocks behind and in front of the wheels of the trailer.
6. Fix the ramps in position ensuring that they are in line with the deck and are firm and secure.
7. Ensure the deck is clear before loading.
8. Make sure the machine is correctly lined up with the ramps. Care must be taken to drive squarely up and down ramps, whenever loading or unloading machines.
9. Keep the machine at low revs when loading to avoid any jerking movements.
10. Be careful loading tracked machines - when the machine passes over the point of balance do not drop the machine heavily onto the deck.
11. Never 'hump' a machine onto a trailer. This is the unsafe practice of using the machines hydraulic attachments to lift and push it up onto a trailer.
12. Position the machine so that the weight of the load is even over the length of the trailer. The machine and blade must be facing the front of the trailer toward the draw bar.
13. Unbalanced loads can cause the trailer to tilt back and pull on the tow bar. It can also cause the trailer to wobble while being driven.
14. After the machine is loaded, lower the boom, lock the brakes and stop the engine. If the machine has a park brake, ensure it is engaged.
15. Use wooden blocks to prevent steel to steel contact.
16. If there is a cage at the front of the trailer place the buckets and equipment into the cage and lower the boom of the digger so the attached bucket rests on the equipment to prevent it from moving.
17. If there is no cage on the trailer, then place the attachments under the blade of the digger and lower the blade to secure the attachments from moving around.
18. When using winches to load disabled machines, ensure that the winch speeds are such that operator maintains control of the machine.
19. Do not allow anybody in the area of the winch when winching plant onto the transporter. If the cable snaps it can cause serious injury or even death. When operating the winch keep yourself out of the line of fire.
20. Secure the machine on the trailer using strops suitable for the safe working load and using certified tie down points. Don't tie down over any cutting edges on the machines as this causes damage to the strops. Use the protector sleeve on the strop.
21. Make sure buckets, augers, rock breakers and any other equipment is tied down with a strop. Don't tie down over the cutting edges of the drill bits or other equipment as this causes damage to the strops. Use the protector sleeve on the strop.