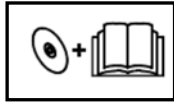


Visit Vermeer at www.vermeer.com to locate your local Vermeer dealer.

Your rental associate or technician will explain each of the following operating steps and safety practices before you use this machine.



WARNING: Do not use or attempt to operate the machine until you understand proper operation and safety of the machine. Read the Operator's Manual. Read safety signs attached to the machine. In addition, a Vermeer Mini Skid Steer Operation and Safety Video is available for viewing at your rental center. If you are unsure of content or meaning of the safety messages or information regarding machine operation, ask your rental associate or technician for details.

INTENDED USE: Vermeer FTX25 Footing Trencher is a self-propelled track machine with stand-up operating station. It is designed to be used solely to produce an open trench in a continuous operation with rearward motion of the machine.

OPERATING STEPS

1. Engine Start:

- Check all machine fluid levels and condition of air cleaner before starting machine.
- Stand with both feet on operator platform to engage "Operator Presence".
- Place "Ground Drive" and "Trencher Drive" controls in NEUTRAL.
- Move "Throttle" to 1/2 speed.
- Use "Key Switch" to start engine. After engine starts, maintain "Throttle" at 1/2 speed and let engine warm up.

2. Highway Transport:

- Before transporting machine on a trailer, read trailer manual for safety precautions and loading information. Ensure gross weight of machine with attachments is within the gross weight limits of the trailer and the towing vehicle. Approximate machine weight without boom or chain is 2525 lb (1145 kg).
- Clean machine to keep any debris off highway. Position machine in-line with trailer ramps, set "Throttle" to 1/2 speed. With trailer attached to tow vehicle and parked on level ground, slowly and smoothly drive machine squarely onto trailer and stop machine when tie-down position is reached. Avoid loading if ramps are slippery. **NOTICE: Drive forward up ramps and back down ramps. Driving with the trencher attachment end downhill may result in machine tipping forward. Always travel on ramps with attachment as low as practical. Minimize steering while on ramps.**
- Fully lower trencher boom to trailer bed. Shut off engine and remove key.
- Secure machine to trailer using standard tie-down procedures with one front and two rear tie-down points. Secure any loose attachments.
- Reverse procedure for unloading machine from trailer. Ensure trailer is on level ground. Avoid unloading if ramps are slippery.

3. Setup:

- Contact the local One-Call system in your area to request location of all underground utilities near work area.
- Operating the machine will require you to wear protective equipment. Always wear a hard hat, safety shoes, hearing protectors, and eye protection. If working near traffic, wear reflective clothing.
- Examine work area for any obstructions, conditions, or situations which may impair machine operation or create a safety hazard for the operator or other persons. Look for evidence or notices of underground placements, manhole covers, drop boxes, and recent trenching activity. All utilities in these areas should be marked and avoided. Check for and stay away from steep slopes, banks, overhangs, drop-offs, and trenches which can cave in. Use the information on safety signs on the machine and in the Operator's Manual combined with your own good judgment when identifying operating hazards and avoidance measures.
- Either the trench cleaner assembly or restraint bar must be in place on the trencher boom while digging. These are intended to help protect against accidental personal contact with the digging chain.

4. Driving the Machine:

- Always disengage digging chain before transporting.
- Place your hands, palms down, on the "Handgrip Bar" so your fingers are on the forward area of the bar and the palms on the rear portion of the bar, with the joystick knob cradled between your thumb and forefinger. This provides a secure grip and good lever control.
- Drive machine at a speed suitable for the terrain. Always keep both hands firmly on the "Handgrip Bar" when moving the machine. Return controls to NEUTRAL before removing your hands from the bar.
- Move "Ground Drive" control slowly to start moving the machine smoothly. Avoid sudden stopping, starting, or turning unless necessary.
- When driving over an object such as a curb, bump or depression, the machine can pitch forward or backward quickly. Watch for these objects and travel very slowly. Avoid excessive speed, quick turns and terrain which could make the machine unstable.
- Operate machine up or down, but not across, an incline.

5. Opening a Trench:

- Line up machine at beginning of trench.
- If equipped with trench cleaner, follow *Shutdown Procedure* to shut off engine. Then raise and secure trench cleaner.
- Follow *Starting Procedure* and engage digging chain in FORWARD detent position.
- Move "Throttle" to FULL speed and lower trencher boom slowly to desired digging depth. **NOTICE: Lowering boom too quickly will result in excessive boom and machine bounce. A small amount of rearward ground travel during the plunge cut may help in reducing boom and machine bounce.**
- If using a trench cleaner, once plunge cut is complete, raise trencher boom until level with ground, stop digging chain and shut off engine. Release trench cleaner, restart machine, engage digging chain in FORWARD, and lower trencher boom to desired digging depth.
- Adjust ground speed for best productivity when required trench depth has been reached.

6. Shutdown Procedure:

- Park machine on level surface and place "Ground Drive" and "Trencher Drive" controls in NEUTRAL. Fully lower trencher boom to ground.
- Move "Throttle" to 1/2 speed, run for a minimum of 15 seconds to cool, move "Throttle" to idle, then shut off engine and remove key.

Operator's Manual and Rental Center Guide are available in other languages. Contact productsafety@vermeer.com. Se dispone del Manual del Operador y de la guía de centros de alquiler en otros idiomas. Póngase en contacto con productsafety@vermeer.com.

See other side for Safety Practices

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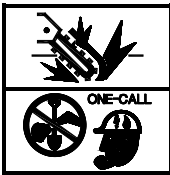
Your rental associate or technician will explain each of the following safety practices and operating steps before you use this machine.

SAFETY PRACTICES

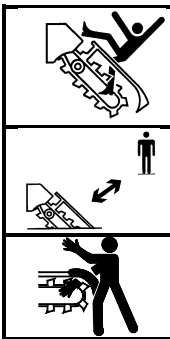
Below are selected safety messages. Additional safety information is contained in safety signs on the machine and in the Operator's Manual attached to the machine.



WARNING: Keep all spectators and unprotected workers away from the machine and work area while in operation.



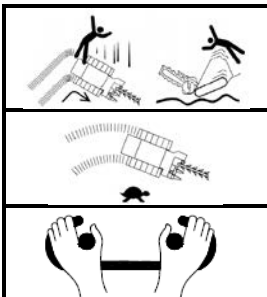
WARNING: Before you start any digging project, call the local One-Call system in your area and any utility that does not subscribe to the One-Call system.



DANGER: Contact with moving digging chain will result in death or serious injury. Trench cave-in may cause you to fall onto moving chain.

Stay away from moving digging chain.

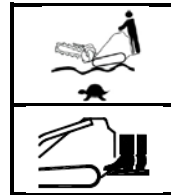
Never adjust trench cleaner assembly with the digging chain or engine running.



WARNING: Abrupt movement and uneven terrain can throw operator off machine.

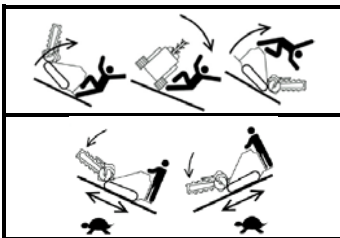
Avoid abrupt starts, stops, and turns.

Keep both hands firmly on grips.



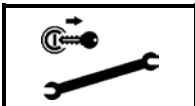
Slow down on rough and uneven terrain.

Keep both feet on platform.



WARNING: Traveling on slopes or with boom elevated may result in tipover. Serious crushing injury or death can result.

Slow down on steep terrain with trencher lowered.



WARNING: Use Shutdown Procedure explained in the Operator's Manual before servicing, cleaning, repairing, or transporting the machine.



WARNING: Failure to follow any of the preceding safety instructions or those shown on the machine or in the Operator's Manual could result in death or serious injury. This machine is to be used for only those purposes for which it was intended as explained in the Operator's Manual.

See other side for Operating Steps