

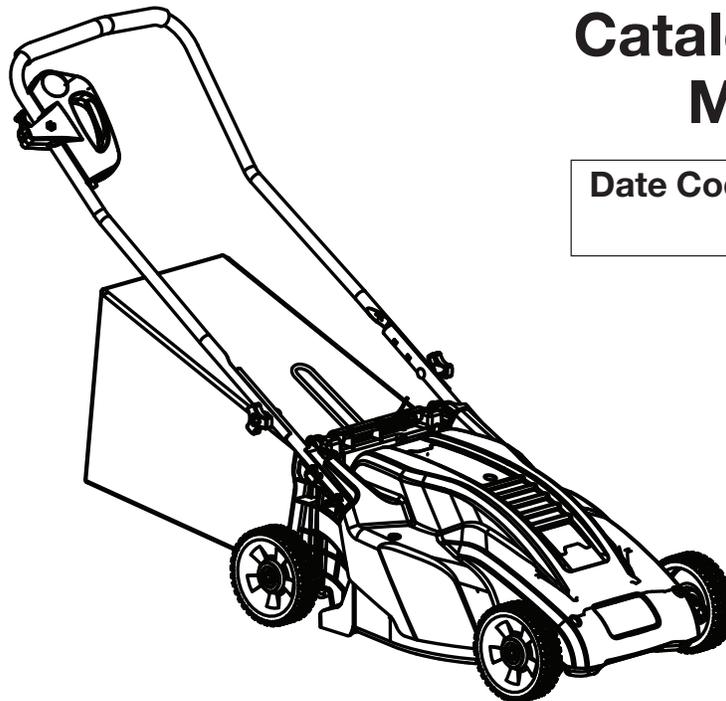


**18 Inch (46cm) Mulching Rear Bag Mower**

## **INSTRUCTION MANUAL**

**Catalog Number  
MM1800**

Date Code:



**Thank you for choosing Black & Decker!**  
Go to [www.BlackandDecker.com/NewOwner](http://www.BlackandDecker.com/NewOwner) to register your new product.

### **PLEASE READ BEFORE RETURNING THIS PRODUCT FOR ANY REASON:**

If you have a question or experience a problem with your Black & Decker purchase, go to [HTTP://WWW.BLACKANDDECKER.COM/INSTANTANSWERS](http://www.BLACKANDDECKER.COM/INSTANTANSWERS) for instant answers 24 hours a day.

If you can't find the answer or do not have access to the internet, call 1-800-544-6986 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Mon. -- Fri. to speak with an agent. Please have the catalog number available when you call.

### **KEY INFORMATION YOU SHOULD KNOW:**

- Do not operate mower unless handle is locked into position.
- For best cutting results, keep blade sharpened and balanced.
- Inspect and thoroughly clean your mower after each use (a deck with caked grass will degrade performance).
- Make sure mowing area is clear of other persons or pets prior to starting and during operation.

**SAVE THIS INSTRUCTION MANUAL FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.**

**VEA EL ESPAÑOL EN LA CONTRAPORTADA.**

INSTRUCTIVO DE OPERACIÓN, CENTROS DE SERVICIO Y PÓLIZA DE GARANTÍA.  
**ADVERTENCIA:** LÉASE ESTE INSTRUCTIVO ANTES DE USAR EL PRODUCTO.

## SAFETY GUIDELINES - DEFINITIONS

It is important for you to read and understand this manual.

The information it contains relates to protecting YOUR SAFETY and PREVENTING PROBLEMS. The symbols below are used to help you recognize this information.

**⚠ DANGER:** Indicates an imminently hazardous situation which, if not avoided, will result in death or serious injury.

**⚠ WARNING:** Indicates a potentially hazardous situation which, if not avoided, could result in death or serious injury.

**⚠ CAUTION:** Indicates a potentially hazardous situation which, if not avoided, may result in minor or moderate injury.

**CAUTION:** Used without the safety alert symbol indicates a potentially hazardous situation which, if not avoided, may result in property damage.

The following are explanations of important safety hazard pictorials on the mower.



1. User must read and understand the instruction manual.



2. To avoid the risk of serious injury do not mow up and down slopes. Always mow across slopes.



3. To avoid the risk of injury to bystanders keep all persons and pets at a safe distance from the mower while operating.



4. Rotating blades can cause serious injury. Keep hands and feet clear of mower deck and discharge opening at all times. Always be sure blade has stopped (wait for the blade to stop rotating (approximately 3 seconds) after releasing switch lever and unplugging before removing and replacing grass catcher, cleaning, servicing, transporting or lifting the mower.



5. Objects struck by mower blade can cause serious injury. Stay behind the handle when the motor is running. Always ensure persons and pets are clear of the discharge from the mower while operating. Always inspect mowing area before mowing and remove objects that could be thrown by blade. Release switch lever to turn mower off and wait for the blade to stop rotating (approximately 3 seconds) before crossing walk, roads, patio and gravel drives.

**⚠ WARNING: IMPORTANT SAFETY WARNINGS AND INSTRUCTIONS**

**⚠ WARNING:** When using electric gardening appliances, basic safety precautions should always be followed to reduce risk of fire, electric shock, and personal injury, including the following.

## READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS

### TO REDUCE RISK OF INJURY:

- Before any use, be sure everyone using this tool reads and understands all safety instructions and other information contained in this manual.
- Save these instructions and review frequently prior to use and in instructing others.

### ⚠ DANGER IMPORTANT SAFE PRACTICES FOR WALK-BEHIND MOWERS

This lawn mower is capable of amputating hands and feet and throwing objects. Failure to observe the following safety instructions could result in serious injury or death.

### GENERAL OPERATION

1. Read, understand, and follow all instructions on the mower and in the instruction manual before starting.
2. Do not put hands or feet near or under the mower. Keep clear of the discharge opening at all times.
3. Only allow responsible adults, who are familiar with the instructions, to operate this mower.
4. Clear the area where the mower is to be used of objects such as rocks, sticks, wire, toys, bones, etc., which could be thrown by the blade. Objects struck by the blade can cause severe injury to persons. Stay behind the handle when the motor is running.
5. Be sure the area surrounding the mower is clear of bystanders before operating. All bystanders and pets should be kept at a safe distance. Stop the mower if anyone enters the area surrounding the mower.
6. Do not operate mower barefooted or while wearing sandals. Always wear substantial footwear.
7. Do not pull mower backward unless absolutely necessary. Always look down and behind before and while moving backward.
8. Never direct discharged material toward anyone. Avoid discharging material against a wall or obstruction. Material may ricochet back toward the operator. Release switch lever to turn mower off and stop the blade when crossing gravel surfaces or when flipping the handle.
9. Do not operate mower without the entire grass catcher, discharge guard, rear guard, or other safety protective devices in place and working. Periodically check all guards and safety protective devices to ensure they are in good working order and will operate properly and perform their intended function. Replace a damaged guard or other safety device before further use.
10. Never leave a running mower unattended.
11. Always release the switch lever to stop the motor and wait until the blade comes to a complete stop and unplug the mower before cleaning the mower, removing the grass catcher, unclogging the discharge guard, when leaving the mower, or before making any adjustments, repairs or inspections.
12. Operate mower only in daylight or good artificial light when objects in the path of the blade are clearly visible from the operating area of the mower.
13. Do not operate mower while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or when you are tired or ill. Always stay alert, watch what you are doing, and use common sense.
14. Avoid dangerous environments. Never operate mower in damp or wet grass, never use mower in the rain. Always be sure of your footing; walk; never run.
15. Disengage the drive system, if so equipped, before starting the motor.

16. If the mower should start to vibrate abnormally, release the switch lever, wait for the blade to stop and unplug the mower, then check for the cause immediately. Vibration is generally a warning of trouble.
17. Always wear proper eye and respiratory protection when operating the mower.
18. The use of any accessory or attachment not recommended for use with this mower could be hazardous. Only use accessories approved by Black & Decker.
19. Never overreach while operating the mower. Always be sure to keep proper footing and balance at all times while operating the mower.

## SLOPE OPERATION

Slopes are a major factor related to slip and fall accidents, which can result in severe injury. Operation on all slopes requires extra caution. If you feel uneasy on a slope, do not mow it.

1. Mow across the face of slopes; never up and down. Exercise extreme caution when changing direction on slopes.
2. Watch for holes, ruts, bumps, rocks, or other hidden objects. Uneven terrain could cause a slip and fall accident. Tall grass can hide obstacles.
3. Do not mow on wet grass or excessively steep slopes. Poor footing could cause a slip and fall accident.
4. Do not mow near drop-offs, ditches, or embankments. You could lose your footing or balance.

## CHILDREN

Tragic accidents can occur if the operator is not alert to the presence of children. Children are often attracted to the mower and the mowing activity. Never assume that children will remain where you last saw them.

1. Keep children out of the mowing area and under the watchful care of a responsible adult other than the operator.
2. Be alert and turn mower off if a child enters the area.
3. Never allow children to operate the mower.
4. Use extra care when approaching blind corners, shrubs, trees, or other objects that may block your view of a child.

## GENERAL SERVICE

1. Never operate mower in a closed area.
2. Keep all nuts and bolts tight to be sure the equipment is in safe working condition.
3. Never tamper with safety devices. Check their proper operation regularly.
4. Keep mower free of grass, leaves, or other debris build-up. Allow mower to cool before storing.
5. If you strike a foreign object, release switch lever to turn mower off wait for the blade to stop and unplug the mower and then inspect the mower. Repair, any damage, before starting and operating the mower.
6. Never make any adjustments or repairs with the motor running or while the mower is plugged in.
7. Always unplug electric mowers before adjusting, cleaning, repairing, inspecting, transporting, storing or leaving the mower.
8. Check grass catcher components and the discharge guard frequently and when necessary replace with Black & Decker recommended parts only.
9. Mower blades are sharp. Wrap the blade or wear gloves, and use extra caution when servicing them.
10. Maintain or replace safety and instruction labels, as necessary.

## ⚠ WARNING: GENERAL SAFETY WARNINGS AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR ALL TOOLS

- **THIS TOOL CAN BE DANGEROUS.** Follow all warnings and Safety Instructions in this manual. The operator is responsible for following warnings and instructions in this manual and on unit. Restrict use of this mower to persons who read, understand and follow warnings and instructions in this manual and on unit.
- **STORE IDLE MOWER INDOORS.** Mowers should be stored indoors in dry, secured area – out of reach of children.
- **DON'T FORCE MOWER.** It will do the job better and with less likelihood of a risk of injury at the rate for which it was designed.
- **USE RIGHT APPLIANCE.** Do not use the mower for any job except that for which it is intended.
- **DRESS PROPERLY.** Do not wear loose clothing or jewelry. They can be caught in moving parts. Rubber gloves, long pants and substantial, non-skid footwear are recommended when working outdoors.
- **USE SAFETY GLASSES AND OTHER SAFETY EQUIPMENT.** Use safety goggles or safety glasses with side shields, complying with applicable safety standards and, when needed, a face shield. Also use face or dust mask if operation is dusty. This applies to all persons in the work area. Also use a hard hat, hearing protection, gloves, safety shoes and dust collection systems when specified or required. Safety glasses or the like are available at extra cost at your local dealer or Black & Decker Service Center.
- **DON'T ABUSE CORD.** Never carry mower by cord or yank it to disconnect from receptacle. Keep cord away from heat, oil, and sharp edges.
- **MAINTAIN MOWER WITH CARE.** Keep cutting edge clean and sharp for best performance and to reduce the risk of injury. Follow instructions for lubricating and changing accessories. Inspect mower cord periodically and if damaged, have it repaired by authorized service facility. Inspect extension cords periodically and replace if damaged. Keep handles dry, clean, and free from oil and grease.
- **AVOID UNINTENTIONAL STARTING.** Don't carry plugged-in mower with finger on switch. Be sure switch is off when plugging in.
- **BEFORE USING,** always visually inspect to see that the blade, blade fasteners and cutter assembly are not worn or damaged. Replace worn or damaged blades and fasteners in sets to preserve balance. Inspect the mower cord - ensure it is in good condition. Cord insulation must be intact with no cracks or deterioration.
- **TO REDUCE THE RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK,** this mower has polarized plug blades (one blade is wider than the other) and will require the use of a polarized extension cord. The mower plug will fit into a polarized extension cord only one way. If the plug does not fit fully into the extension cord, reverse the plug. If the plug still does not fit, obtain a correct polarized extension cord. A polarized extension cord will require the use of a polarized wall outlet. The extension cord plug will fit into the polarized wall outlet only one way. If the extension cord plug does not fit fully into the wall outlet, reverse the plug. If the extension cord plug still does not fit, contact a qualified electrician to install the proper wall outlet. Do not change the mower plug, extension cord receptacle, or extension cord plug in any way.
- **EXTENSION CORDS.** Make sure your extension cord is in good condition. Cord insulation must be intact with no cracks or deterioration. Plug connectors must be undamaged. When using an extension cord, be sure to use one heavy enough to carry the current your product will draw. An undersized extension cord will cause a drop in line voltage resulting in loss of power and overheating, which can shorten the life of the motor. The table shows the correct size to use depending on cord length and nameplate ampere rating. If in doubt, use the next heavier gauge. The smaller the gauge number, the heavier the cord.

Volts	Minimum Gauge for Cord Sets			
	Total Length of Cord in Feet			
120V	0-25	26-50	51-100	101-150
	(0-7,6m)	(7,6-15,2m)	(15,2-30,4m)	(30,4-45,7m)
240V	0-50	51-100	101-200	201-300
	(0-15,2m)	(15,2-30,4m)	(30,4-60,9m)	(60,9-91,4m)
Ampere Rating		American Wire Gauge		
More Than	Not more Than			
0	- 6	18	16	14
6	- 10	18	16	12
10	- 12	16	16	12
12	- 16	14	12	Not Recommended

-  indicates the Mower is “DOUBLE INSULATED”

- **OUTDOOR USE EXTENSION CORDS.** To reduce the risk of electric shock, use only with an extension cord intended for outdoor use, such as an extension cord of type SW-A, SOW-A, STW-A, STOW-A, SJW-A, SJOW-A, SJTW-A, or SJTOW-A.
- **GROUND FAULT CIRCUIT INTERRUPTER (GFCI)** protection should be provided on the circuits or outlets to be used for the mower. Receptacles are available having built in GFCI protection and may be used for this measure of safety.
- **CHECK FOR DAMAGED PARTS.** Before further use of the mower, a guard or other part that is damaged should be carefully checked to determine that it will operate properly and perform its intended function. Check for alignment of moving parts, binding of moving parts, breakage of parts, mounting, and any other conditions that may affect their operation. A guard or other part that is damaged should be properly repaired or replaced by an authorized service center unless otherwise indicated elsewhere in this manual.
- **REPAIRS AND SERVICE.** Repairs, maintenance and any adjustments not specified in this manual should be performed by Black & Decker authorized service centers or other qualified service organizations, always using identical replacement parts.

**⚠ DANGER: ADDITIONAL WARNINGS FOR MOWERS**

- **ALWAYS** firmly grip handle with both hands when operating mower.
- **NEVER** wear radio or music headphones while operating mower.
- **CONTAIN** long hair.
- **NEVER** attempt to make a wheel height adjustment while the motor is running or while the mower is plugged in.
- **IF MOWER** stalls, release switch lever to turn mower off, wait for blade to stop and unplug the cord before attempting to unclog the chute or remove anything from under the deck.
- **KEEP HANDS** and feet away from cutting area.
- **KEEP BLADES** sharp. Always use protective gloves when handling the mower blade.
- **IF YOU** are using a grass catcher, check it frequently for wear and deterioration. If excessively worn, replace with new bag for your safety.
- **USE EXTREME CAUTION** when reversing or pulling mower toward you.

**⚠ WARNING:** Some dust created by this product contains chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer, birth defects or other reproductive harm. Some examples of these chemicals are:

- compounds in fertilizers
- compounds in insecticides, herbicides and pesticides
- arsenic and chromium from chemically treated lumber

To reduce your exposure to these chemicals, wear approved safety equipment such as dust masks that are specially designed to filter out microscopic particles.

**SAVE THESE INSTRUCTIONS**

**PREPARATION**

PLEASE REFER TO DIAGRAMS (A, B, C...) AND ITEM NUMBERS (1, 2, 3...) AS NOTED THROUGHOUT MANUAL. FOR EXAMPLE, A-1 REFERS TO ITEM 1 IN FIGURE A.

**UNPACKING - (FIGURES A1, A2)**

**STEP 1:**

Open the tops of the box. Carefully cut down the sides of the box on the opposite end of the handle and fold the flap down as shown.

**⚠ WARNING: Sharp blade.** Keep body parts away from blade.

**STEP 2:**

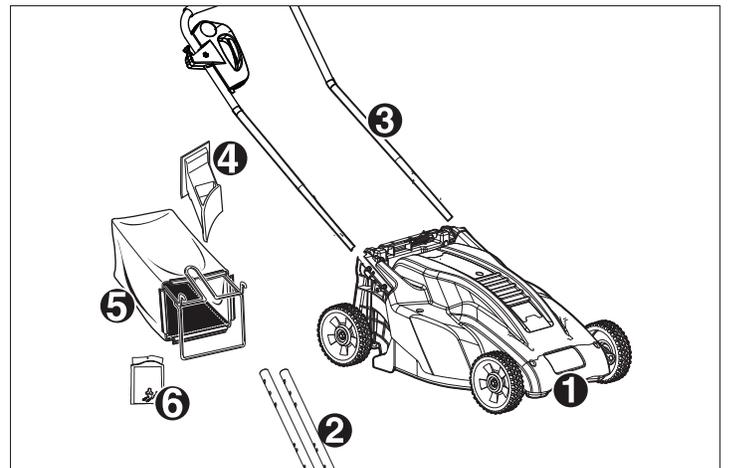
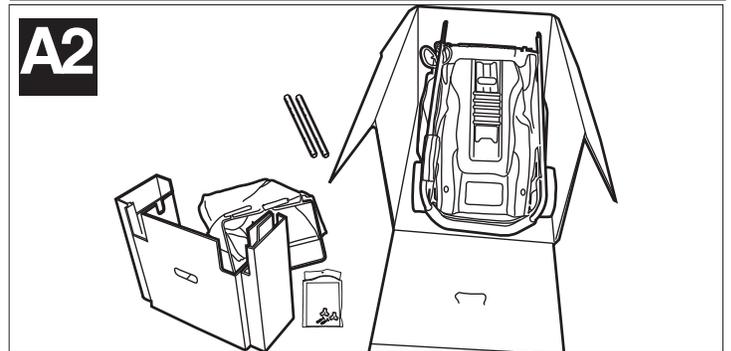
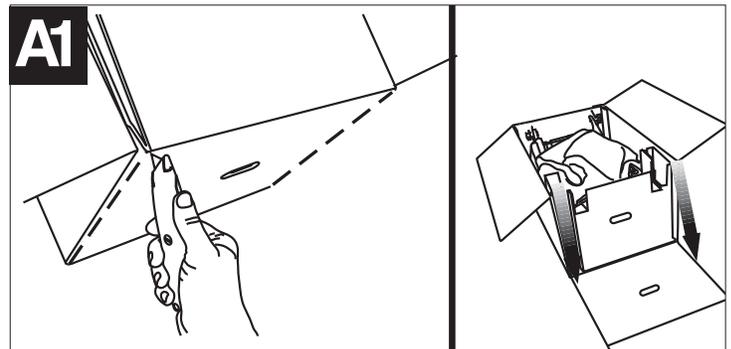
With the carton end cut open, remove the cardboard filler, handle tubes, accessory bag and grass bag and push the mower out of the opened carton.

**ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS**

BEFORE ASSEMBLING YOUR MOWER, CHECK THAT YOU HAVE RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING IN THE SHIPPING CARTON.

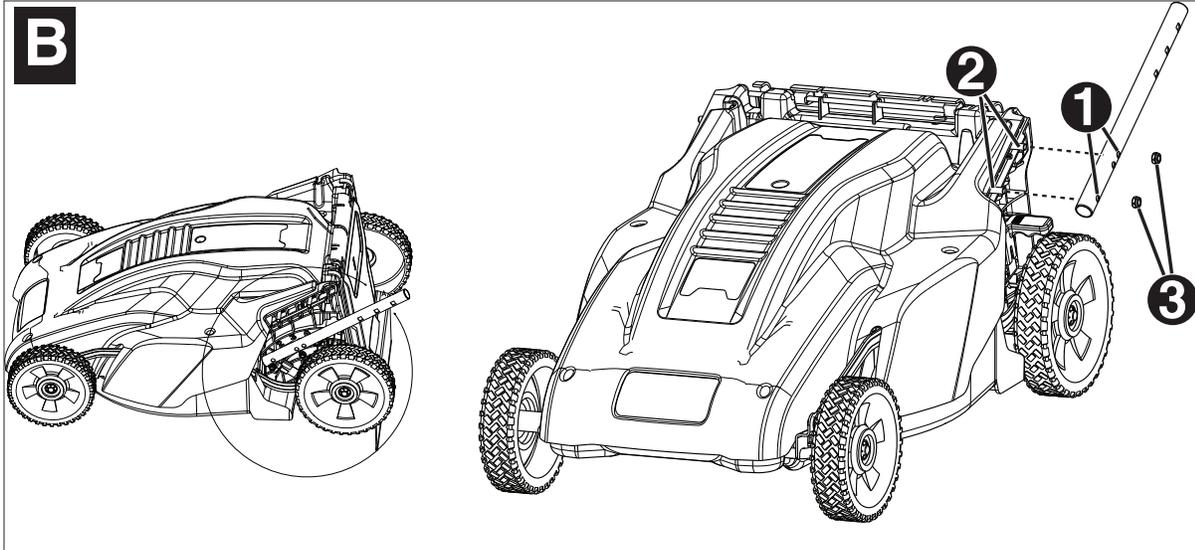
1. Mower
2. Lower Handle Sections
3. Upper Handle
4. Mulch Insert (inside mower under rear door)
5. Grass bag and Grass bag Frame
6. Accessory bag

Tools required for assembly:  
Adjustable or 1/2 inch (13mm) wrench

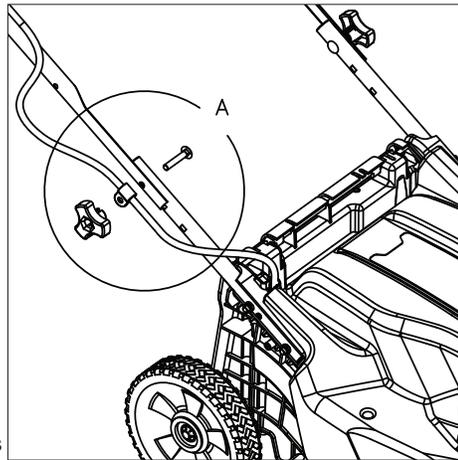


**HANDLE ASSEMBLY - (FIGURE B)**

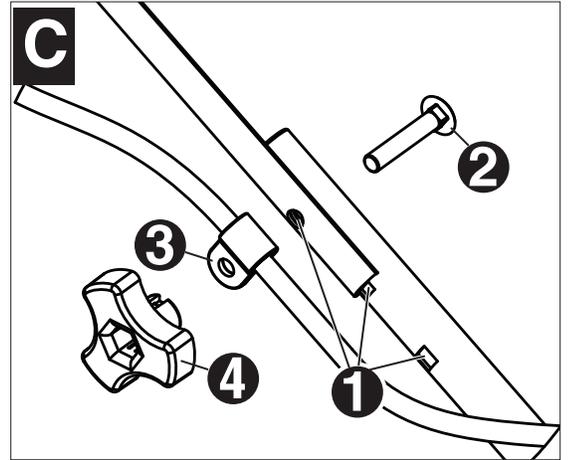
1. Align the **round holes** in the lower handle section (**B1**) with the two threaded studs (**B2**) in the side wall of the deck.
2. Push the handle section onto the studs fully.
3. Thread on two lock nuts (**B3**) and tighten with a 1/2 inch (13mm) wrench. Repeat for other side.



4. Slide the one piece upper handle into one of the 3 adjustment positions (**C1**), aligning the holes in the upper and lower handles. **NOTE: Adjust the handle position at this time to suit your height preference. Taller users may want the handle assembled as shown in figure C while shorter users may want to adjust the upper handle to one of the two remaining height adjustment positions.**

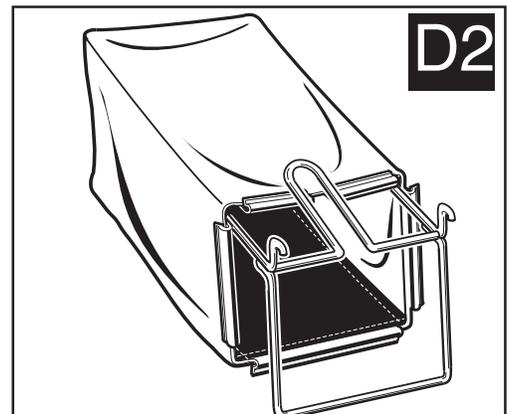
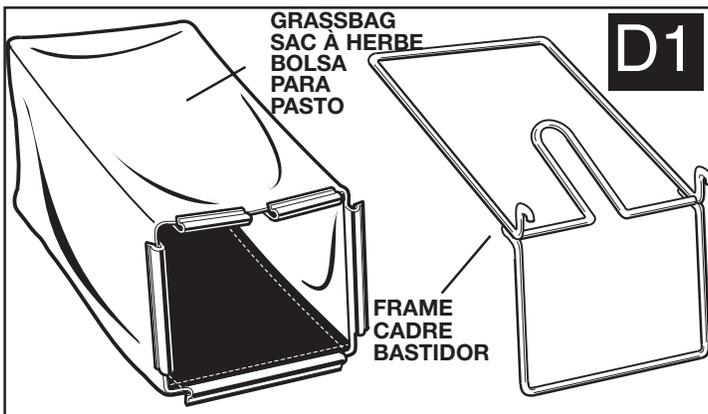


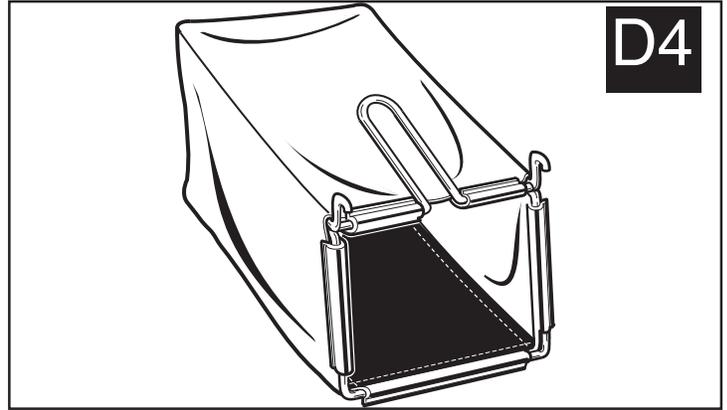
5. Insert the carriage bolt (**C2**) until the head of the bolt is **fully seated against the handle**.
6. Align the cord retainer (**C3**) with the carriage bolt. Install the knob (**C4**), tightening securely. The knobs should always be on the outside of the handles to avoid interference with the rear door and grass bag. Insert carriage bolt and install knob for other side.



**ASSEMBLING THE GRASS CATCHER (FIGURES D1, D2, D3, D4)**

1. Before starting to assemble the grass bag to the frame, check that the grass bag and frame are similar to **figure D1**.
2. Slide the grass bag onto the frame as shown in **figure D2** making **sure bag is under frame handle**.
3. Assemble the top clips to the frame as shown in **figure D3**, then assemble the two side clips and the bottom clip last.
4. Completely assembled grass catcher is shown in **figure D4**.

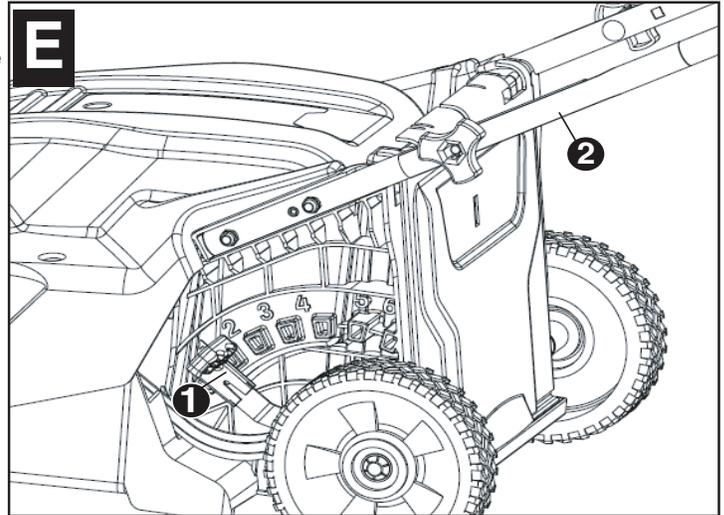




### WHEEL HEIGHT ADJUSTMENT (1-1/4 IN. (32mm) TO 3-1/2 IN. (89mm) FIGURE E

**NOTE:** Certain types of grass or grass conditions may require varying the height of the mower deck.

1. Before making any adjustments, turn mower off, wait for blade to stop, and unplug mower.
2. Your mower features the Black & Decker single lever wheel height adjust system. This system will adjust all four wheels at the same time. Mower adjusts from 1-1/4 in. (32 mm) to 3-1/2 in. (89 mm) with six increments which are marked on the mower.
3. Place your left hand on the height adjust handle E1 and your right hand on the lower part of the main handle E2.
4. Pull height adjust handle (E1) away from mower, and re-set in the desired height adjust position. Rotating the height adjust handle towards the front of the mower lowers the cutting height, and rotating towards the rear raises the cutting height.



### RECOMMENDED APPROXIMATE CUTTING HEIGHT

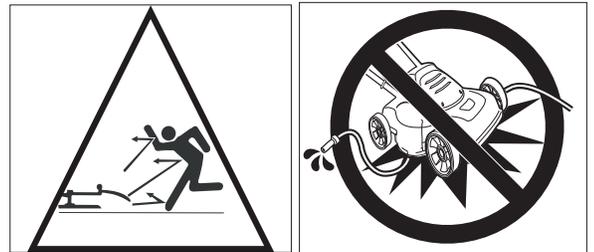
The cutting height should be in the higher recommendation for warmer weather, lower for shade areas and for the last mow before winter. Follow the 1/3 rule, never cut off more than 1/3 of the total height of the grass. If lawn is too high to practice this rule, raise the cut height before mowing and then lower to desired height and mow again in a day or so.

## OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

**NOTE:** A mower is a major appliance and should not be operated simultaneously with other major appliances on the same house circuit.

**⚠ WARNING:** Make sure that other persons and pets are at least 100 feet (30.48 m) away.

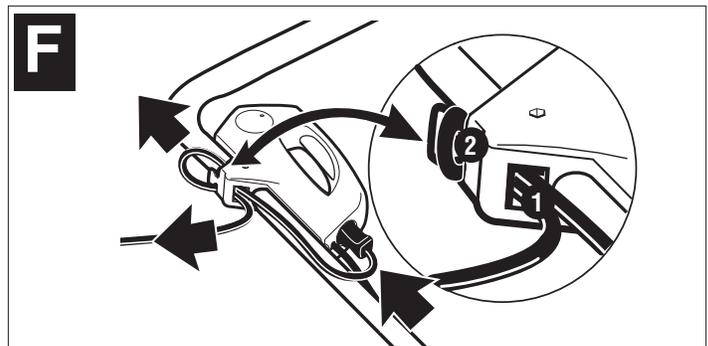
Remove all rocks, sticks, wire, toys, bones, and other debris or items which might be thrown by the rotating blade.



### ATTACHING EXTENSION CORD TO MOWER

#### (FIGURE F)

- DO NOT** connect the extension cord to power source until you have finished reading this manual and you are ready to start mowing.
1. The extension cord must be polarized and will only plug in one way, orient the wide slot with the wide blade in the switch housing.
  2. Loop the extension cord (F1) and push the loop up through the hole in the switch housing.
  3. Pull the extension cord on the side of the loop that is plugged into the switch housing and remove all the slack in this section of the extension cord.
  4. Place the loop over the strain relief tab (F2) on the switch housing and pull the extension cord so the loop draws down around the strain relief tab as shown in the detail. Double check to see that you did not loosen the extension cord.



## SWITCH USE (FIGURE G)

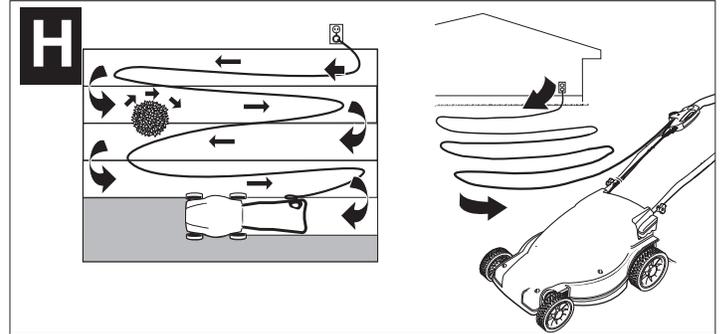
Your mower is equipped with a special switch. To operate the switch, insert your finger into the opening (Figure G) and push the lever out so that you can grasp it with your other hand. Pull the lever back to turn the unit on and hold it against the mower handle to keep it running. To turn the mower off, just release the lever. The spring loaded "SNAP ACTION" lever will quickly turn the mower off.

**⚠WARNING:** NEVER ATTEMPT TO OVERRIDE THE OPERATION OF THIS SWITCH.



## EXTENSION CORD TO ELECTRICAL OUTLET (FIGURE H)

1. Place most of the extension cord close to the electrical outlet, out of the path of the mower. Attach extension cord to mower.
2. Start in direction where extension cord side of mower is closest to the outlet. Begin mowing in the area closest to the outlet and mow in a back and forth manner. Note the cord is kept on cut portion of lawn and out of the path of the mower. (Figure H)
3. Avoid mowing in circles as cord will be harder to manage.



## SAFETY SHIELD AND REAR DOOR -FIGURE I

The safety shield (I-1) is designed to minimize the throwing of stones or other objects by the mower blade backward from under the mower deck. The shield, along with the rear door (I-2), minimizes the possibility of accidental foot contact with the blade. DO NOT operate mower without the safety shield and rear door in place.

**⚠DANGER: Sharp moving blade.** For your own safety DO NOT use this mower without either the grass catcher or mulch insert in operating position as serious injury could result.

**⚠DANGER: Sharp moving blade.** Do not operate the mower if the rear door is not closed under spring tension as serious injury could result. Take your mower to the nearest service center for repair.

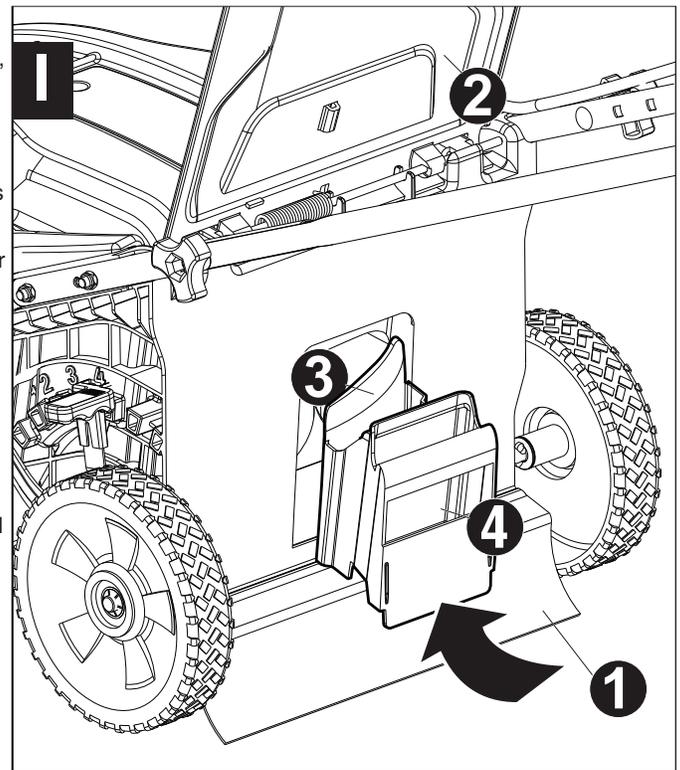
## REMOVING MULCH INSERT - FIGURE I

To remove the mulch insert (I-3) so that you can bag the grass or discharge with the optional discharge chute, follow the steps listed below:

1. Turn mower off, wait for blade to stop, and unplug mower.
2. Raise the rear discharge door (I-2) and hold it up.
3. Locate your hand in the handle pocket (I-4), lift and pull out the mulch insert (I-3) completely.
4. The rear discharge door is spring loaded. When you release it the door will return to the closed position.

## INSTALLING MULCH INSERT

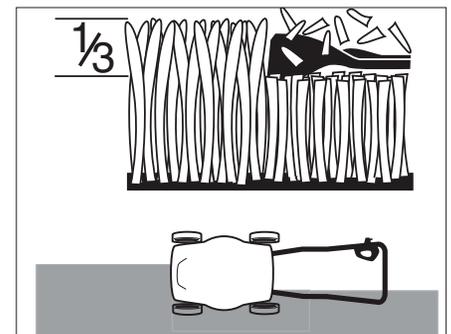
1. Repeat steps 1 and 2 for removing mulch insert.
2. Slide the mulch insert (I-3) into the discharge opening until it is firmly in contact with the deck.
3. Release rear door and ensure it is properly closed.



## MULCHING TIPS

In the mulching configuration your new mower is designed to re-cut the grass clippings into short lengths. These clippings, which are dispersed as you mow will biodegrade quickly and provide nutrients for the lawn.

- Set mower at highest cutting height when mowing in rough ground or in tall weeds.
- Do not cut the lawn when it is wet. Wet grass tends to form clumps with the mulching action. The best time to cut your lawn is in the afternoon.
- For best results, adjust the mower cutting height so that the mower cuts off only the top third of the grass blades.
- If your lawn is overgrown it may be necessary to increase the cutting height to reduce the pushing effect and prevent overloading the motor.
- For extremely heavy mulching make narrower cuts and mow slowly.

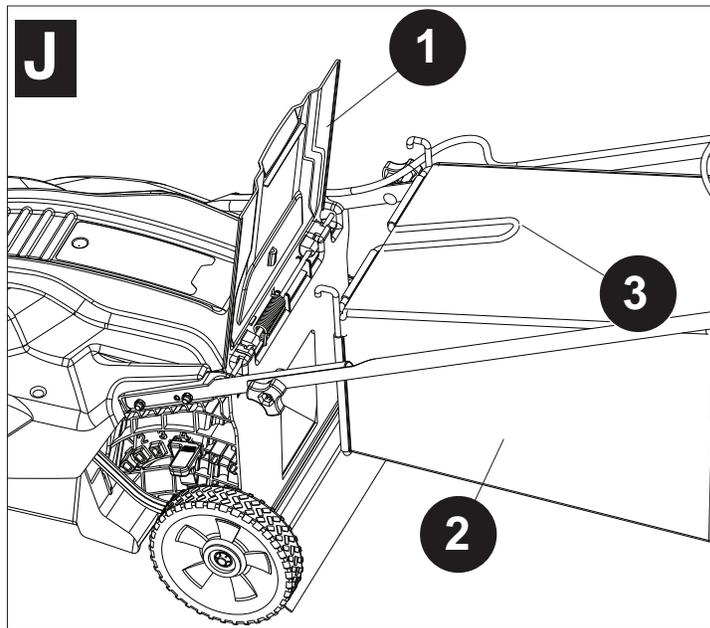


- Change your cutting pattern from week to week. Mow north to south one week and east to west the next week. This will help prevent matting and graining of the lawn.

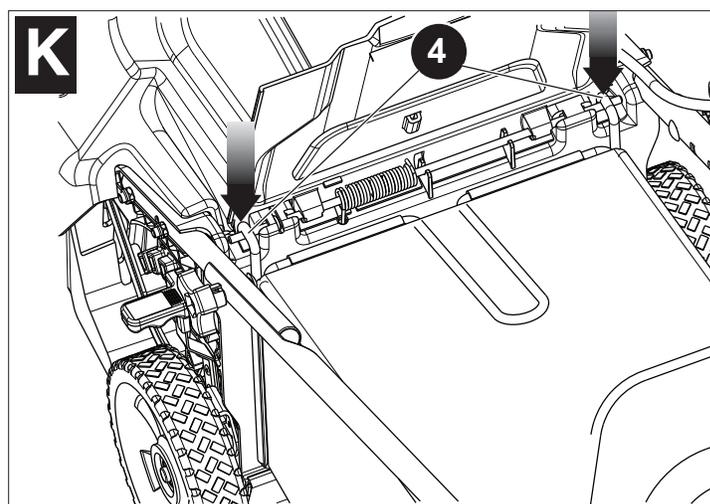
**⚠ CAUTION:** Do not attempt to unclog the blade chamber by dropping or tapping the mower on the ground. This can damage the mower.

## **INSTALLING GRASS CATCHER -FIGURE J & K**

1. Turn mower off, wait for blade to stop, and unplug mower.
2. Reaching down between the mower handles, raise the rear discharge door (J-1) to a vertical position and hold the door up. Ensure that the mulch insert (I-3) has been removed.
3. Pick up the grass catcher (J-2) by the handle (J-3) and place the grass catcher between the mower handles as shown.



4. Position the grass catcher hanger hooks (K-4) on the mower as shown in figure K. Release the rear discharge door.



## **BAGGING**

It is recommended to bag the clippings for the first few spring mowings and the last mowing of the season to discourage diseases.

1. Bagging the clipping is sometimes preferred to reduce tracking of clippings into pools, hot tubs, and homes.
2. Clippings can be added to your compost bin and used later for a natural fertilizer.

## **CLEANING AND STORAGE**

**⚠ DANGER:** Be sure the mower is unplugged and the blade has stopped.

Remove and clean any debris from the outside of the mower and inside of guard before storage. Store under cover. See **MAINTENANCE** section. Cleaning out the underside of the mower is done easiest immediately after mowing (**ENSURE MOWER IS UNPLUGGED AND BLADE HAS STOPPED**). A rag, crumpled newspaper or paper towels, can be used to wipe out caked clippings. Be careful of sharp edges of blade.

A clean mowing deck improves the efficiency of the blade and maintains high performance. When cleaning, **DO NOT** immerse mower in water or squirt it with a hose or pressure washer. Use only mild soap and damp cloth to clean the mower. Never let any liquid get inside the mower; never immerse any part of the mower into a liquid.

**NOTE:** Do not store the mower on or adjacent to fertilizers or chemicals. Such storage can cause rapid corrosion to metal parts.

## **PREVENTING CORROSION**

Fertilizers and other garden chemicals contain agents that greatly accelerate the corrosion of metals. If you use the mower in areas where fertilizers or chemicals have been used, the mower should be cleaned immediately afterwards.

Wipe all exposed parts with a damp cloth. You may lubricate only metal parts with a light petroleum based oil. Do not lubricate wheels.

## MAINTENANCE

Before each mowing session unplug the mower and ensure that the blade has stopped. Check all nuts, bolts and screws to ensure proper tightness. Be sure to check the blade fastening system.

**IMPORTANT:** To assure product SAFETY and RELIABILITY, repairs, maintenance and adjustment should be performed by authorized service centers or other qualified service organizations. Use only identical replacement parts.

Inspect and thoroughly clean your mower at the beginning of each mowing season for longer life and better performance.

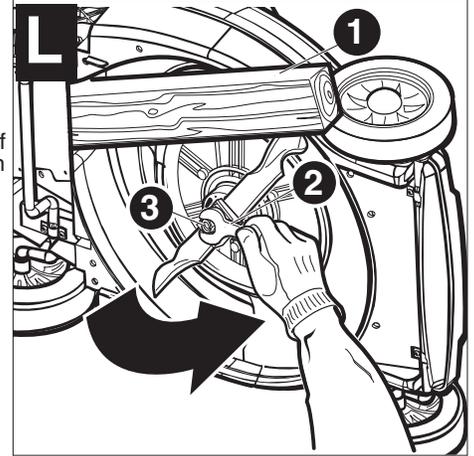
From time to time turn the mower off and wait for the blade to stop. Then unplug the power cord and turn the mower on its side. Using an object such as a stick or rag, wipe out any accumulation of grass in the blade area. Also clean out any grass or debris which may be packed around the discharge/mulch door area. Be careful of the sharp edges of the blade.

### REMOVING AND INSTALLING BLADE (FIGURE L, M, N)

1. RELEASE SWITCH LEVER TO TURN MOWER OFF, WAIT FOR THE BLADE TO STOP, AND UNPLUG MOWER.

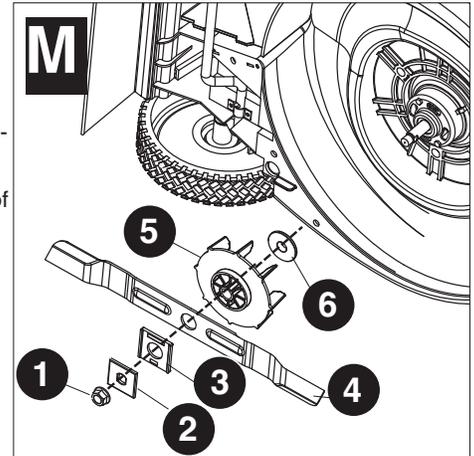
2. Cut a piece of 2x4 wood (L-1) (about 2 feet long) (610 mm) to keep blade from turning while removing flange nut.

3. Turn the mower on its side. Wear gloves and proper eye protection. Be careful of sharp edges of blade. Position wood (L-1) and remove flange nut (L-3) with 3/4 in. (19mm) wrench (L-2) as shown in figure L.

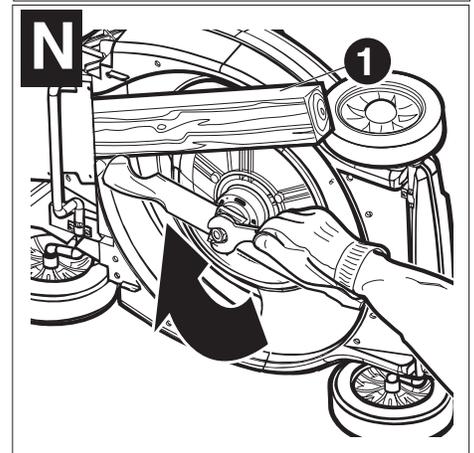


4. Remove square metal blade spacer (M-2), square plastic blade insulator (M-3) and blade (M-4) as shown in figure M. Examine blade insulator for damage and replace if necessary.

5. When replacing sharpened or new blade on shoulder of fan (M-5), make sure the "GRASS SIDE" on the blade will be facing the ground when the mower is returned to its normal upright position. After installing blade (M-4), place plastic blade insulator (M-3) on blade such that the raised lips on one side engage the edges of the blade. Then install the blade spacer (M-2) so that it sits inside the raised lips on the other side of the blade insulator. Be sure to align the flats in the hole of the blade spacer with the flats of the shaft, rotating the blade and blade insulator together as necessary.



6. Position piece of wood (N-1) to keep blade from turning as shown in figure N. Install flange nut with the flange against the blade spacer and securely tighten.



## BLADE SHARPENING - FIGURE O

KEEP BLADE SHARP FOR BEST MOWER PERFORMANCE. A DULL BLADE DOES NOT CUT GRASS CLEANLY OR MULCH PROPERLY. USE PROPER EYE PROTECTION WHILE REMOVING, SHARPENING, AND INSTALLING BLADE. ENSURE MOWER IS UNPLUGGED. Sharpening the blade twice during a mowing season is usually sufficient under normal circumstances. Sand causes the blade to dull quickly. If your lawn has sandy soil, more frequent sharpening may be required.

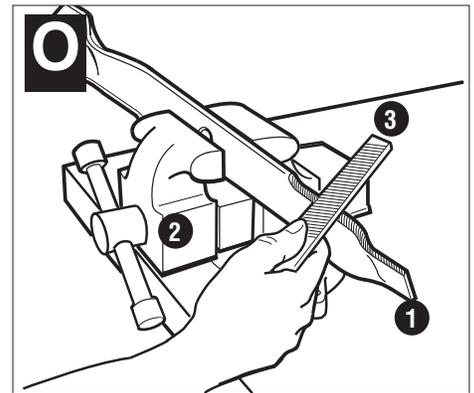
REPLACE BENT OR DAMAGED BLADE IMMEDIATELY.

### WHEN SHARPENING THE BLADE:

1. Make sure blade remains balanced.
2. Sharpen blade at the original cutting angle.
3. Sharpen cutting edges on both ends of blade, removing equal amounts of material from both ends.

### TO SHARPEN BLADE IN A VISE:

1. Ensure mower is unplugged before removing the blade.
2. Remove blade from mower. See instructions for removing and installing blade.
3. Secure blade (O-1) in a vise (O-2).
4. Wear proper eye protection and gloves and be careful not to cut yourself.
5. Carefully file the cutting edges of the blade with a fine tooth file (O-3) or sharpening stone, maintaining the original cutting edge.
6. Check balance of blade. See instructions for blade balancing.
7. Replace blade on mower and tighten securely.



## BLADE BALANCING

Check balance of blade by placing center hole in blade (P-1) over a nail or round shank screwdriver (P-2), clamped horizontally in a vise (P-3). If either end of the blade rotates downward, file that end. Blade is properly balanced when neither end drops.

## STORAGE POSITION

For more compact storing the mower can be stored in an upright position, with the handle folded over as shown in figure Q. Insure mower is unplugged before storing. Loosen the two lower knobs (Q-1) and lower the handle section (Q-2) into place. Be careful not to pinch power cord. Tighten the two lower knobs and stand the mower upright so that it rests on its handle and back wheels and the blade side is against a wall.

⚠ **CAUTION:** Pinch point. To avoid being pinched, keep fingers away from area between handles when lowering.

## LUBRICATION

No lubrication is necessary. Do not oil the wheels. They have plastic bearing surfaces which require no lubrication.

## ACCESSORIES

Recommended accessories for use with your tool are available from your local dealer or authorized service center. If you need assistance regarding accessories, please call:

**1-800-544-6986.** ⚠ **WARNING:** The use of any accessory not recommended for use with this tool could be hazardous.

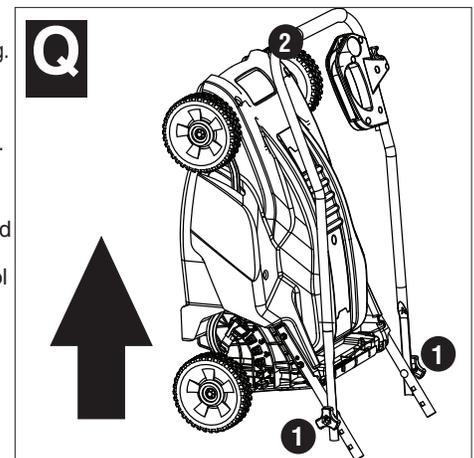
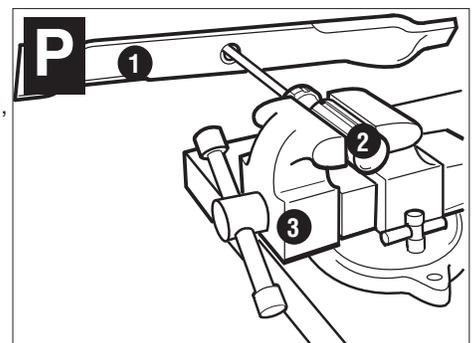
p/n 90550646 MULCH INSERT

p/n 242867-00 SIDE DISCHARGE CHUTE

p/n 242501-05 REPLACEMENT GRASS BAG

MB-075 REPLACEMENT BLADE FOR TYPE 1 MODELS ONLY

MB-1800 REPLACEMENT BLADE FOR ALL EXCEPT TYPE 1 MODELS



## SERVICE INFORMATION

All Black & Decker Service Centers are staffed with trained personnel to provide customers with efficient and reliable power tool service. Whether you need technical advice, repair, or genuine factory replacement parts, contact the Black & Decker location nearest you. To find your local service location, refer to the yellow page directory under "Tools—Electric" or call: **1-800-544-6986** or visit [www.blackanddecker.com](http://www.blackanddecker.com)

## FULL TWO-YEAR HOME USE WARRANTY

Black & Decker (U.S.) Inc. warrants this product for two years against any defects in material or workmanship. The defective product will be replaced or repaired at no charge in either of two ways.

The first, which will result in exchanges only, is to return the product to the retailer from whom it was purchased (provided that the store is a participating retailer). Returns should be made within the time period of the retailer's policy for exchanges (usually 30 to 90 days after the sale). Proof of purchase may be required. Please check with the retailer for their specific return policy regarding returns that are beyond the time set for exchanges.

The second option is to take or send the product (prepaid) to a Black & Decker owned or authorized Service Center for repair or replacement at our option. Proof of purchase may be required. Black & Decker owned and authorized Service Centers are listed under "Tools-Electric" in the yellow pages of the phone directory.

This warranty does not apply to accessories. This warranty gives you specific legal rights and you may have other rights which vary from state to state or province to province. Should you have any questions, contact the manager of your nearest Black & Decker Service Center. This product is not intended for commercial use.

**FREE WARNING LABEL REPLACEMENT:** If your warning labels become illegible or are missing, call **1-800-544-6986** for a free replacement.

## **DECK WARRANTY**

Lifetime Warranty for DECK only against any defects in material or workmanship.

## **TROUBLESHOOTING**

<b>PROBLEM</b>	<b>CORRECTIVE ACTION</b>
-Motor will not start	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Check fuse or circuit breaker to ensure power is to outlet</li><li>- Check extension cord with another electrical device to ensure cord is good.</li><li>- Call customer service representative 1-800-544-6986</li></ul>
-Motor keeps slowing down	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The underside of the mower may be plugged with clippings. Turn mower off, wait for blade to stop, UNPLUG mower and clean out.</li><li>- Grass may be too tall, try pushing at a slower pace, or raise cutting height.</li><li>- Check blade sharpness and balance, and correct if required.</li><li>- If mulching, there is too much grass. Turn mower off, wait for blade to stop, UNPLUG mower and raise cutting height.</li></ul>
-Runs but poor cut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The blade may be dull. Turn mower off, wait for blade to stop, UNPLUG mower and carefully check for sharpness.</li><li>- Blade may be damaged (bent or badly chipped). Turn mower off, wait for blade to stop, UNPLUG mower and replace if necessary.</li><li>- Grass may be too high or thick for cutting height. Turn mower off, wait for blade to stop, UNPLUG mower and raise cutting height.</li></ul>
-Excess vibration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Blade may be loose. Turn mower off, wait for blade to stop, UNPLUG mower then check blade for tightness.</li><li>- Blade may be bent or badly chipped. Turn mower off, wait for blade to stop, UNPLUG mower and replace if necessary.</li><li>- Blade may be unbalanced. Refer to blade balancing section of instruction manual.</li></ul>
-Mower is hard to push	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Mower is too close to the ground with the amount of grass being cut. Turn mower off, wait for blade to stop, UNPLUG mower and raise cutting height.</li><li>- Turn mower off, wait for blade to stop and UNPLUG mower and check wheels and axles to ensure all are rotating easily.</li></ul>
-Mower leaves clumps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Turn mower off, wait for blade to stop, UNPLUG mower and raise cutting height.</li><li>- Turn mower off, wait for blade to stop, UNPLUG mower and carefully check blade for sharpness.</li><li>- Grass may be too wet to cut. Wait for grass to dry.</li></ul>
-Discharge/Bag plugging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Grass may be too wet, try again when grass is dry.</li><li>- There is too much grass. Turn mower off, wait for blade to stop, UNPLUG mower and raise cutting height.</li></ul>

## **HERE ARE SOME HELPFUL HINTS TO GET THE MOST FROM YOUR BLACK & DECKER MOWER...AND KEEP YOUR LAWN LOOKING BEAUTIFUL**

1. Lawns should first be mowed in the spring when the grass is about 2-1/2 (63.5mm) to 3 (76.2mm) inches high. Mowing too early restricts the grass root systems which renew themselves every spring. New grass should be clipped when it is about 2-1/2 (63.5mm) inches high.
2. Do not remove too much grass blade surface at one time...never more than 1/3 of the leaf height during each cutting. Cutting too close "shocks" sensitive grass blades, resulting in a shallow root system and thus making it more difficult for your lawn to reach water in the soil.
3. Lawn care experts say that excessively close cutting is responsible for much of the difficulty experienced on many lawns. The depth and strength of the roots of grass are almost exactly proportional to its growth. Grasses of mature lawns often are seriously injured when mowed shorter than 1-1/2 (38.1mm) inches, and a height of 1-1/2 (38.1mm) to 2 (50.8mm) inches is preferred on large lawns.
4. Mow your lawn when it is dry to avoid clumping of wet grass. If you have a choice, late afternoon is the ideal time for mowing, not only because the grass is dry, but also because the sensitive new cut area of the grass will not be exposed to intense sunlight.
5. Keep the mowing blade sharp for a nice clean cut. This improves the mower's performance and enhances the look of your lawn. A dull blade shatters and bruises the tips of the grass. This impairs the healthy growth of your lawn and increases susceptibility to turf diseases. If the grass tips are bruised it causes a brownish colour and gives your lawn an unhealthy appearance. A dull blade may also pull up young seedlings.
6. Try to mow your lawn at the same (consistent) cutting height. While there are times when you should vary the cutting height with the changing seasons, a consistent cutting height produces a healthier, lovelier lawn with generally fewer weeds. Mow more frequently during periods of fast growth. Frequent cutting ensures that the lower, less attractive portion of the grass will not show.
7. If your lawn has grown too long, (a vacation, for example, may interrupt your cutting schedule) mow at a cutting height one or two positions higher than normal. A second pass at "normal" cutting height a few days later will put your lawn back on schedule. Changing the cutting height is a simple matter with Black & Decker's One Touch Wheel Height Adjustment, which simultaneously adjusts all four wheels at once.
8. During the spring and fall, (or after an interruption to the cutting schedule) the grass will be longer and thicker. If the motor continually slows down while cutting, try setting the wheels for a higher cutting height. Excessive motor loading can result in uneven cutting, and can cause the house circuit breaker to trip, which stops the motor.
9. Three good ideas to enhance your lawn's appearance: Vary the mowing direction frequently; mow horizontally on hillsides; (this is also a good safety practice) and do not forget to overlap the mowing path on each pass.
10. Always mow grass so that clippings are discharged onto cut lawn. This will keep your lawn looking fresh by avoiding "Cut Grass" build-up which will eventually brown and appear ugly.

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