

# LAWN MOWER

Lawn mower-related injuries can be devastating and can result in serious injuries, amputations or even death.

Common lawn mower related injuries are deep cuts; loss of fingers, hands, toes, or feet; broken and dislocated bones; burns; eye injuries; soft tissue damage; and sprains or strains.

It is common to see a teen mow the lawn as a chore or to earn cash. However, lawn mowers can be very dangerous, and thousands of children suffer severe injuries every year. More than 8,490 children younger than 18 years are treated in emergency departments for lawn mower-related injuries each year.

Almost half of lawn mower injuries to children younger than 6 years are burns to the hands. This usually happens when the child touches the hot motor. Bystanders are also injured by lawn mowers. This can happen if the lawn mower ejects debris or if someone on a ride-on mower backs up over a child

## WHEN CAN KIDS MOW THE LAWN?



PUSH MOWER

Age **12**  
or older



RIDING MOWER

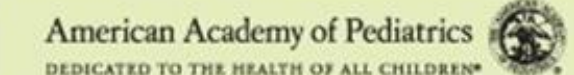
Age **16**  
or older

- Kids must be both strong and mature enough.
- Train teens to operate the mower safely.
- Wear eye protection, and closed toe shoes.



## KEEP KIDS OUT OF YARD WHILE MOWING!

The blades can fire  
**a rock or stick**  
like a bullet.



# SAFETY

# LAWN MOWER SAFETY

Children should be at least 12 years old to operate a push mower and at least 16 years old before using a ride-on mower. **An adult should supervise teens before they are allowed to operate a lawn mower on their own.**

- **Kid-free zone.** Children should **never be passengers** on ride-on mowers and children younger than 6 years of age should be **kept indoors** during mowing. **Never let children play on or near a lawn mower, even when it is not in use.**
- **Before you mow.** Pick up any stones or other objects in the grass. Objects thrown by a lawn mower can cause **severe eye and other injuries**. Put on protective eyewear and make sure you are wearing sturdy closed shoes
- **While you mow. Always be aware and double check your surroundings.** When using a walk-behind lawn mower, use a mower with a control that stops it from moving forward if the handle is released. Always mow going forward. If you absolutely have to mow in reverse, always look behind you before you start backing up.
- **Turn it off.** Use mowers that have protection over the hot and sharp parts. **Wait for the blades to stop completely** before removing the grass catcher, unclogging the discharge chute, or crossing gravel roads.

## Keep Kids Safe FROM LAWN MOWER INJURIES

In the U.S., more than **9,000 children** go to the ER for lawn mower-related injuries every year.

**800 kids**

are run over by a riding mower

**600**

of these  
require  
**amputation**



two **most**  
**common**  
ages of  
injury



**\*Amputations:** In extreme lawnmower accidents, loss of a body part might be a possibility. If an amputation occurs, the body part should be brought to the hospital as well. Depending on the incident, the body part may be reattached. If possible wrap the amputated body part in a damp bandage. Then, seal it in a plastic bag and put the plastic bag in a container with water and ice.