

Splitting Operation

WARNING

Before starting this log splitter, review the following instructions and safety information for safe operation of the log splitter.

Failure to follow these rules may result in serious injury to the operator or bystanders from moving parts that crush, cut, or entangle from flying objects, burns, fire, falling or tripping, or from carbon monoxide poisoning.

General safety information:

- **Read manual.** Do not allow anyone to operate the log splitter who has not read the Owner's Manual or has not been instructed on the safe use of the splitter. The log splitter owner should instruct all operators in safe log splitter operation.
- **Age restrictions.** Never allow anyone under 16 years old to operate the log splitter. Anyone 16 years and older must be trained and supervised by a trained adult.
- **Intended use.** Log splitters should only be used for splitting wood logs, lengthwise with the grain. Do not use for other purposes as unforeseen hazards may result.
- **Modifications.** Never modify or alter the log splitter in any way. Modifications can create serious safety hazards and will void the warranty:
- **Attachments.** Never add attachments to the splitter, except for authorized accessories supplied by the manufacturer with instructions for safe installation and use.
- **Engine speed.** The maximum engine speed is preset at a safe limit. Never attempt to modify the engine speed setting to run at a higher speed.
- **Fuel/exhaust system.** NEVER modify or add to the exhaust system, fuel tanks, or fuel lines. Fire can result.
- **Remote control.** NEVER attach a rope, cable, or other remote device to the splitting control.
- **Splitting wedge.** NEVER attempt to change the height or speed of the splitting wedge.
- **Pressure setting.** NEVER increase the pressure setting of the pump or control valve.
- **Safety equipment / controls.** Always operate the log splitter with all safety equipment in place and in good working order, and all controls properly adjusted for safe operation.
- **Know how to stop.** Be thoroughly familiar with all controls and with the proper use of the equipment. Know how to stop the log splitter and relieve system pressures quickly if needed.
- **Operating speed.** Always operate the log splitter at the manufacturer's recommended speed. The maximum speed of the engine pump and wedge are preset within safe limits.
- **Daylight only.** Only use the log splitter in daylight so you can see what you are doing.
- **Smoking / sparks.** Never smoke while operating the log splitter, and never operate near sources of sparks or flames.
- **Under the influence.** Never operate, or let anyone else operate, the log splitter while under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or medication.
- **Unattended.** Never leave the machine unattended while the engine is running.
- **Refueling.** Never refuel the engine until it has cooled at least two minutes.
- **Adjusting / repairing.** Always make sure the engine is off before cleaning, repairing or adjusting the splitter, except as recommended by the manufacturer. In addition, disconnect the spark plug and move all control handles back and forth to relieve system pressure *before changing or adjusting hydraulic system components* such as hoses, tubing, fittings or other components.
- **Replace labels.** Always make sure safety labels are in place and in good condition. If a safety label is missing or not legible, order new labels because unsafe operation can result. Call 1-800-270-0810 to order new safety labels.

Splitting Operation

1. Put on protective clothing / gear

Wear the following protective clothing and safety gear:

- 1) **Eye protection.** Always wear safety glasses or goggles when operating the machine. Pieces of log may fly out and serious eye injury can occur.
- 2) **Boots.** Falling logs can crush feet. Always wear safety shoes or heavy boots when operating or helping to load logs.
- 3) **Gloves.** Wear snug fitting gloves without drawstrings or loose cuffs.
- 4) **Hearing protection.** The use of earplugs or other hearing protection device is recommended.
- 5) **No loose/dangling.** Loose or dangling apparel can become entangled in moving parts. Never wear jewelry or loose-fitting clothing.

2. Lock and block

Block the wheels to prevent unintended movement of the log splitter. Check that:

- 1) The outrigger legs are both locked in the DOWN position.
- 2) The wheels are blocked.

3. Set to horizontal or vertical:

Set log splitter into either the horizontal or vertical splitting position

The HORIZONTAL splitting position is used for lighter logs that can be easily loaded onto the beam. The VERTICAL splitting position is used for light logs as well as heavy logs that are difficult to load onto the beam.

Note:

Musculoskeletal injury can result from lifting logs onto the log splitter if proper lifting techniques are not used or the logs are too heavy for a person's size, weight, or strength. In some cases, logs as small as 8" in diameter and 14" in length may be heavier than what some persons should be repeatedly lifting onto the splitter.

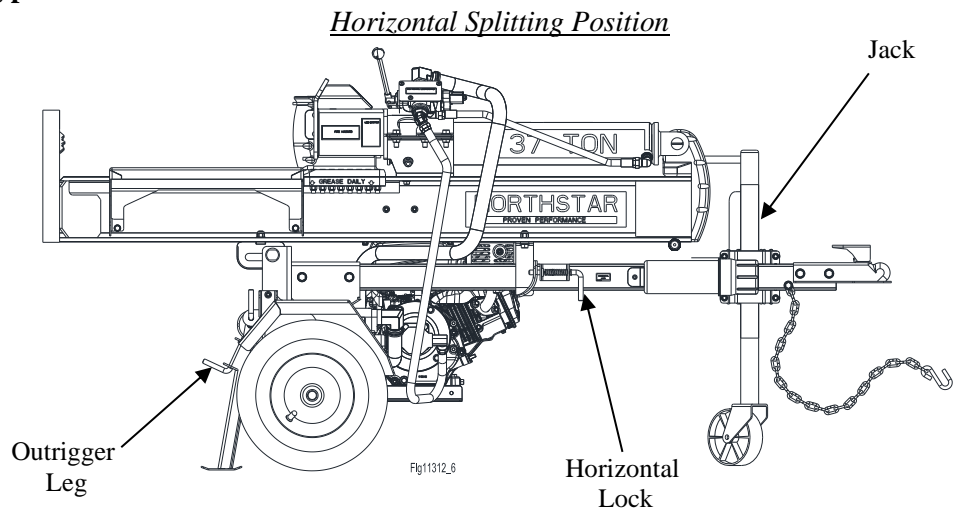
The use of the vertical splitting position can greatly reduce the need to lift logs onto the splitter. Employers are advised to consider NIOSH lifting guidelines when assigning employees to log splitting tasks for an extended period of time.



WARNING: NEVER change splitting positions with the engine running. You may contact the muffler and receive serious burns.

a) Set to Horizontal position

Make sure beam is locked securely in the horizontal position by checking the horizontal lock. Jack must be locked in the down position. Rear outrigger leg must be locked in horizontal splitting position.



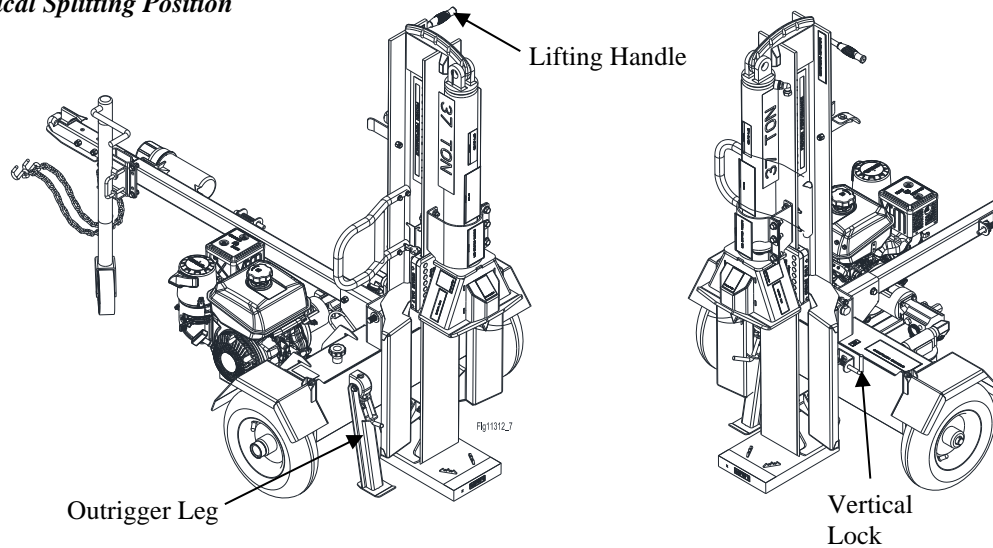
Splitting Operation

b) Set to
Vertical
position

- 1) **Lock rear outrigger leg in down position.**
- 2) **Pull out horizontal lock catch pin, grasp lifting handle and lift beam until it rotates into vertical position.**

⚠ WARNING: Crush hazard. The beam is heavy – do not let it just drop. It could crush fingers or cause damage to the splitter.

Vertical Splitting Position



- 3) **Lock in vertical position using catch pin through the vertical lock.**
- 4) **To return to horizontal position, unlock vertical position, grasp lifting handle and lower beam carefully in a controlled manner until it rests on the tow bar, lock beam in the horizontal position with catch pin.**

4. Start engine

Start the engine.

See the engine owner's manual for engine starting instructions.

NOTE:

- a) **Make sure the hydraulic oil is above 10°F before starting the engine. Cold hydraulic oil can damage the hydraulic pump.**
- b) **If outdoor air temperature is below 32°F, allow log splitter to warm up by extending and returning the wedge several times before splitting wood.**

⚠ WARNING:

- **Burns.** To avoid burns, stay clear of hot muffler if you are starting a warm engine.
- **Carbon monoxide.** The running engine gives off carbon monoxide, a poisonous gas that can kill you. You CANNOT smell it, see it, or taste it. If you start to feel sick, dizzy, or weak while using the log splitter, shut off the engine and get to fresh air RIGHT AWAY. See a doctor. You may have carbon monoxide poisoning.
- **Other exhaust dangers.** Engine exhaust, some of its constituents, and certain vehicle components contain or emit chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer, birth defects, or other reproductive harm. Avoid inhalation of exhaust.

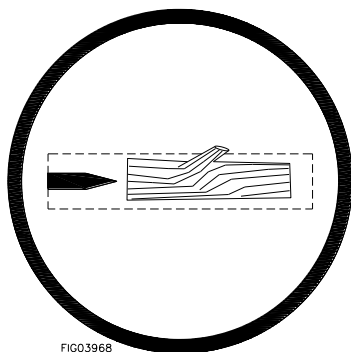
Splitting Operation

5. Load log

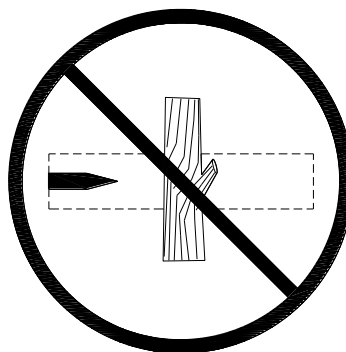
Load log onto beam with a cut end against the endplate – positioned for a lengthwise cut.

Notes:

- The log splitter is designed only for cutting lengthwise with the grain, NOT for cutting across the grain.
- This log splitter is designed for cutting logs only up to a maximum of 16" in diameter and 25" long. Larger diameter logs could get stuck on the wedge and longer logs will not fit on the beam.



Correct Log Orientation



Incorrect Log Orientation

⚠ WARNING: ALWAYS keep hands and feet away from the endplate, wedge, and partially split logs while loading, operating and unloading the log splitter.

Important safety instructions:

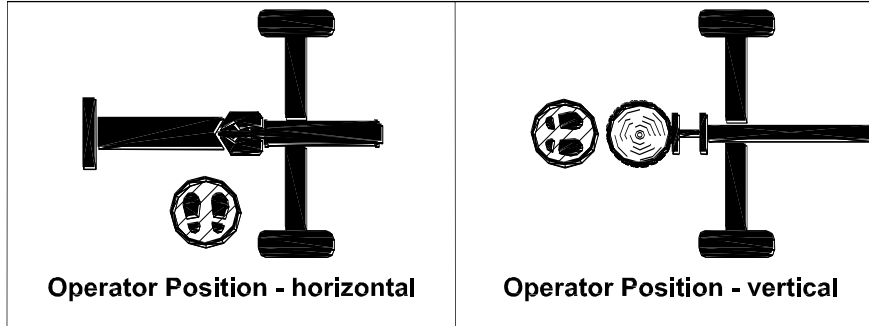
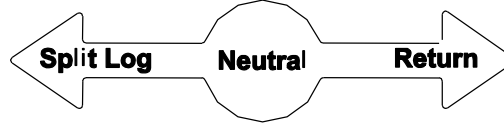
- Hold bark side.** Hold the bark side of logs when loading or positioning, never the ends. Never place your hands or any part of your body between a log and any part of the log splitter.
- NOTE for vertical position loading:** Place the log on the endplate and turn it until it leans against the beam and is stable. If the log is too big or oddly shaped, stabilize the log with wooden shims between the log and endplate or ground. DO NOT use your leg or knee to stabilize the log. NEVER stabilize the log by placing your hand on top of the log.
- Wedge moving.** NEVER load or unload logs while the wedge is moving.
- Straddling / reaching across.** Never straddle, reach across, or step over the beam while the engine is running and the log splitter is in the horizontal position. You could trip, actuate the controls, and get seriously injured.
- Unsplit log pile.** Do not pile logs to be split in a place that will make you reach across the log splitter in order to load them.
- Square log ends.** Logs that are not cut square can slide out while splitting and become a safety hazard or cause excessive force to log splitter components. Use a chainsaw to cut logs square on each end before attempting to split them.
- Single log.** Never attempt to split more than one log at a time. Pieces of log can unexpectedly be thrown from the machine causing serious injury.
- Split along grain.** Do not use the log splitter to split logs across the grain. Doing so will damage the log splitter and could also cause pieces of log to be thrown, injuring the operator or bystanders.
- Forked logs.** Splitting forked logs can cause damage the log splitter. Trim the forked log with a chain saw prior to splitting the log.
- Changing splitting position.** Do not change splitting positions (horizontal/vertical) with the engine running. You may contact the muffler and receive serious burns. Be careful to avoid contact with hot muffler even after the engine is turned off.

Splitting Operation

6. Extend wedge

Move Split Control Lever toward endplate to extend wedge and split log.

SPLIT CONTROL LEVER OPERATION



Important safety instructions:

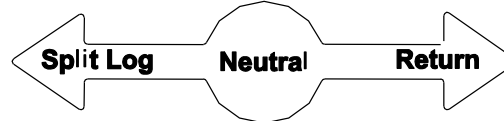
- **Operator position.** ALWAYS operate the log splitter from the manufacturer's indicated OPERATOR POSITION. (See diagram above.) Other positions are unsafe because they can increase the risk of injury from crushing, cutting, flying objects, or burns.
- **Remove hands.** Remove both hands from log before activating Split Control Lever.
- **Hand activate.** Use only your hand to operate the Split Control Lever. Never use any other body part, or a rope, cable, or other remote device to actuate the control.
- **Second person.** Many accidents occur when there is more than one person involved in loading and operating the log splitter. Only one person should operate the controls. *If a second person is assisting in loading logs, the operator must NEVER actuate the Split Control Lever until the assistant and all bystanders are at least 10 feet away. NEVER allow an assistant to hold the log in place while the operator actuates the Split Control Lever.*

7. Stop wedge

Release Split Control Lever to stop wedge movement when log is split.

⚠ WARNING: Cracks in logs can close quickly and pinch fingers. Keep fingers away from any cracks that open in partially split logs.

SPLIT CONTROL LEVER OPERATION



Splitting Operation

8. Important STUCK LOG procedure

If a log does not split completely and becomes stuck on the wedge, follow the instructions below to remove the log.
A log can become stuck to the wedge if the wedge becomes embedded in the log and the log doesn't split and separate. This can happen if the log is too stringy or tough to split completely. A stuck log will move back with the wedge on the initial attempt to retract the wedge. If this happens, retract the wedge completely to allow the splitter to strip the log from the wedge. Keep hands clear of log and wedge while wedge is retracting.

⚠ WARNING: NEVER attempt to remove a stuck log by:

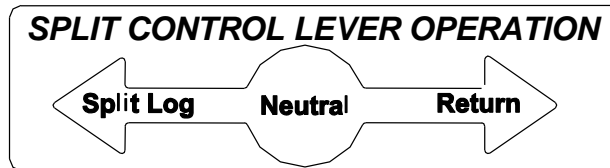
- Modifying the splitter.
- Adding attachments to the splitter.

Personal injury could result from log or metal pieces flying out at high speed toward the operator or bystanders, or the splitter could become damaged.

9. Return wedge

Move Split Control Lever away from end plate to return wedge.

Once the control valve is actuated in the return direction, the wedge is designed to keep returning by itself completely and then stop automatically.



⚠ WARNING:

Stay clear while the wedge is returning. It is still powerful enough on the return stroke to cause serious injury.

10. Remove split wood

Remove split wood from area.

Move each log away from log splitter after it is split. Split logs left near the log splitter are a trip hazard.

11. After use

1. Turn off engine.

2. Remove engine debris.

Debris on a hot engine can be a fire hazard. After the engine is off, clean debris and chaff from engine cylinder head, cylinder head fins, blower housing rotating screen, and muffler areas.

⚠ WARNING: Avoid contact with hot muffler.

3. Return to horizontal position.




If in the vertical position, return log splitter to the horizontal position for greater stability and to prepare for transportation. Avoid contact with hot muffler.

Storage

WARNING

Gasoline vapors can ignite and cause a fire. Select a well-ventilated storage away from sources of heat, flame, or sparks.

Follow the instructions below for storing your log splitter between uses.

1. Retract wedge	Retract the wedge completely to keep the rod protected from corrosion.
2. Cool	Allow the machine to cool 5 minutes before storing.  WARNING: A hot engine can be a fire hazard.
3. Wipe with oily rag	Wipe the beam and wedge with an oily rag to prevent corrosion.
4. Engine manual	Refer to the engine manual for proper engine storage instructions. CAUTION: Gasoline will oxidize and deteriorate in storage. Old gasoline in the engine will cause hard starting and leave gum deposits that can clog the fuel systems. Deterioration problems may occur within a few months, or even less if gasoline was not fresh when you filled the tank. <u>Short-Term Storage:</u> 1. Consider adding a fuel stabilizer to extend fuel storage life. 2. Leave the fuel valve lever in the OFF position to reduce the possibility of fuel leakage. <u>Long-Term Storage:</u> (between infrequent uses and at end of season) Drain the fuel tank and carburetor as instructed in the engine owner's manual. <u>Important Safety Instructions</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always drain fuel from tank in outdoor, well-ventilated area. • Stay away from sources of heat, flame, or sparks while handling fuel. • Clean up fuel spills/splashes immediately.
5. Splitter storage location	Store the log splitter in a location away from corrosive material, sources of heat, open flames, sparks or pilot lights.  WARNING: Never store log splitter inside where there is a source of heat or an open flame, spark or pilot light – such as water heaters, space heaters, furnaces, clothes dryers, or other gas appliances – EVEN IF the log splitter's gas tank is empty, residual gasoline vapors could ignite. NOTE: Do not store the log splitter near fertilizer or any other corrosive material.
6. Gasoline storage	Store gasoline in a cool, dry place in an UL approved tightly sealed container.  WARNING: Gasoline vapors can ignite if they collect inside an enclosure and explosion can result.