



SUPPLEMENT TO YOUR HOMELITE® CHAIN SAW OWNER'S MANUAL

THE CHAIN SAWS LISTED BELOW CONFORM TO THE ANSI-B175.1
- 1985 KICKBACK STANDARD WHEN EQUIPPED WITH THE GUIDE
BARS AND CHAINS SHOWN.

POWERHEAD, GUIDE BAR AND CHAIN COMBINATIONS

SAW MODEL	GUIDE BAR PART NO.	CHAIN PART NO.	CHAIN TYPE NO.	SAW MODEL	GUIDE BAR PART NO.	CHAIN PART NO.	CHAIN TYPE NO.
XL & SUPER 2	HT-10001-G4	HI-92042-JB	37-ME50-42	XL-12, SXL-AO, 330, 360 & 410	SP-16381-H5	JI-92059-MB	38-LE50-59
	HT-12001-G4	HI-92048-JB	37-ME50-48		GW-16001-G5	JI-92059-MB	38-LE50-59
	PT-12371-G4	HI-92048-JB	37-ME50-48		PT-20381-G5	JI-92070-LB	38-ME50-70
	PT-14371-G4	HI-92053-JB	37-ME50-53		SP-20381-H5	JI-92070-LB	38-ME50-70
	PT-16371-G4	HI-92059-JB	37-ME50-59		GW-20001-G5	JI-92070-LB	38-ME50-70
VIS2	PT-14371-G4	HI-92053-JB	37-ME50-53		PT-20381-G5	JI-92070-MB	38-LE50-70
	PT-16371-G4	HI-92059-JB	37-ME50-59		SP-20381-H5	JI-92070-MB	38-LE50-70
150-AO & SEZ	PT-16381-G3	JI-92059-LB	38-ME50-59		GW-20001-G5	JI-92070-MB	38-LE50-70
	PT-16381-G3	JI-92059-MB	38-LE50-59		PT-24381-G5	JI-92081-LB	38-ME50-81
240 & 245	PT-14371-G4	HI-92053-JB	37-ME50-53		SP-24381-H5	JI-92081-LB	38-ME50-81
	PT-16371-G4	HI-92059-JB	37-ME50-59		GW-24001-G5	JI-92081-LB	38-ME50-81
	PT-18371-G4	HI-92064-JB	37-ME50-64		PT-24381-G5	JI-92081-MB	38-LE50-81
	PT-16321-G4	DI-92067-EB	32-ME50-67		SP-24381-H5	JI-92081-MB	38-LE50-81
	PT-18321-G4	DI-92073-EB	32-ME50-73		GW-24001-G5	JI-92081-MB	38-LE50-81
290 & 340	SP-16381-H6	JI-92059-LB	38-ME50-59	360 & 410	SP-28381-H5	JI-92092-MB	38-LE50-92
	SP-16321-H6	DI-92067-FB	32-LE50-67	410	GW-30001-G5	JI-92098-MB	38-LE50-98
	SP-20381-H6	JI-92070-LB	38-ME50-70		SP-31381-H5	JI-92103-MB	38-LE50-103
	SP-20321-H6	DI-92079-FB	32-LE50-79	550	PT-16381-G5	JI-92059-MB	38-LE50-59
					SP-16381-H5	JI-92059-MB	38-LE50-59
XL-12, SXL-AO, 330 & 360	PT-16381-G5	JI-92059-LB	38-ME50-59		GW-16001-G5	JI-92059-MB	38-LE50-59
	SP-16381-H5	JI-92059-LB	38-ME50-59		PT-20381-G5	JI-92070-MB	38-LE50-70
	GW-16001-G5	JI-92059-LB	38-ME50-59		SP-20381-H5	JI-92070-MB	38-LE50-70
	PT-16381-G5	JI-92059-MB	38-LE50-59		GW-20001-G5	JI-92070-MB	38-LE50-70
					PT-24381-G5	JI-92081-MB	38-LE50-81
					SP-24381-H5	JI-92081-MB	38-LE50-81
					GW-24001-G5	JI-92081-MB	38-LE50-81
					SP-28381-H5	JI-92092-MB	38-LE50-92
					GW-30001-G5	JI-92098-MB	38-LE50-98

CODING IN BAR PART NUMBERS AND CHAIN TYPE NUMBERS

BAR NO. PREFIXES
NE = Narrow Nose
GW = Solid, Gas-Welded Tip
PT = Sprocket Nose
SP = Sprocket Nose, Hvy. Duty
HT = Hard Track

FIRST TWO DIGITS OF
BAR NUMBER
16,20 etc. is
nominal or
"called" bar
length

FIRST DIGITS OF
CHAIN TYPE NO.
32 = .325" Pitch
37 = .375" Pitch
38 = 3/8" Pitch
40 = .404" Pitch

CHAIN TYPE
LETTERS
ME = Raker III Semi Chisel
LE = Raker III Chisel

DIGITS BEFORE AND
AFTER THE HYPHEN
XX - (before) = drive link gauge.
- XX (after) = drive links in
chain loop.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS FOR CHAIN SAW USERS



Additional safety precautions and instructions for the proper use and maintenance of your chain saw are contained in your owners manual. Read your owner's manual and this supplement carefully before assembling and operating your saw.

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST KICKBACK



WARNING: KICKBACK may occur when the nose or tip of the guide bar touches an object. Tip contact, in some cases, may cause a lightning-fast reverse reaction, kicking the guide bar up and back towards the operator.



WARNING: PINCHING the saw chain along the top of the guide bar may push the guide bar rapidly back towards the operator. The pinch may occur when the wood closes around the chain in the cut.

Either of the above reactions, **KICKBACK** or **PINCH**, may cause you to lose control of the saw and could result in **SERIOUS PERSONAL INJURY**. When a push has caused the operator to lose control, it is possible for a kickback to occur as a secondary reaction.

Do not rely exclusively upon the safety devices built into your saw to protect you from injury. As a chain saw user, you should do the following to avoid accident and injury:

- Keep **SAFE•T•TIP®** Anti-kickback Device properly mounted on the guide bar. It prevents kickback.
- Get a basic understanding of kickback so you can reduce or eliminate the element of surprise. Surprise can contribute to accidents.
- Keep a firm grip on the saw with both hands when the engine is running. The right hand should be on the rear handle and the left hand on the front handle. Use a firm grip with thumbs and fingers encircling the handles. A firm grip will help you to maintain control of the saw if kickback occurs. Don't let go.
- Be sure the area in which you are cutting is free from obstructions. To avoid kickback, if you remove the **SAFE•T•TIP** Device for a specific cut, do not let the chain at the tip of the guide bar contact a log, branch or any other obstruction while you are operating the saw.
- Keep your body to the left of the line of cut.
- Always bring the saw up to speed before letting the chain touch the wood. Once wood contact is made, keep cutting at steady speed. Do not slow down, then speed up or the saw may pull you off balance.
- Do not overreach or cut above shoulder height. You cannot maintain proper control in these positions.
- Follow Homelite's sharpening and maintenance instructions for the saw chain. Improper maintenance may defeat the safety features designed into your saw.
- Use only the bars and chains specified by Homelite. Other bars and chains may have greater kickback potential.
- Keep up to date with the latest technology in chain saw safety devices and equipment. Contact Homelite Manager of Customer Relations for information. (Address is on back page.)

COMPARISON CHART

FUNCTION	EFFECT, IF ANY, UPON PERFORMANCE	EFFECT IF REMOVED	EFFECT OF BOTH NORMAL AND IMPROPER USE & CARE	EFFECT OF A PRODUCT SUBSTITUTE
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DEVICE TO PREVENT INJURIES FROM KICKBACK

BAR-TIP GUARD (SAFE•T•TIP® Anti-kickback device is factory-installed on all Homelite bars.)

Covers kickback-generating zone of the bar tip to prevent kickback from happening.	Prevents (a) drawing of the bar tip through the cut, (b) boring, and (c) cuts where tip is buried.	Cannot prevent kickback if removed from the bar.	No loss of protection if kept properly tight. Loose device can catch the chain.	To be as effective as the SAFE•T•TIP Device, similar products must fit just as well over the bar tip.
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DEVICES TO REDUCE INJURIES FROM KICKBACK

LOW-KICKBACK CHAIN (Homelite's Chain in this category is Raker III™ Chain.)

Control depth of cutter penetration at the bar tip to reduce force of a potential kickback.	Low-kickback design may compromise cutting speed. Needs proper care to preserve top speed.		May be slight increase of potential kickback force as teeth are filed back. Can be grabby and more dangerous if improperly filed.	Other chains may have greater potential kickback force and may not cut as well.
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REDUCED-KICKBACK GUIDE BAR (Most Homelite models do not use reduced-kickback guide bars.)

Small radius bar tip lowers potential kickback force and may provide a smaller kickback zone at bar tip.	May tend to have shorter life than wider tip bars, and may reduce the cutting rate in some situations		No loss of protection if properly maintained, slow or off-line cutting if not properly maintained. Rail wear, changing effective tip radius may affect protection.	Kickback potential may increase.
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CHAIN BRAKE (Kits and special "SL" model chain saws with chain brakes are available for many Homelite saw models.)

Intended to stop chain in time to reduce injury from a kickback.	Adds weight and bulk to the saw model. May snag in the brush. May activate unintentionally.	Chain will not be stopped by a brake.	May fail to stop chain quickly enough - even with normal use and care. Increase in stopping time likely to go undetected.	May not function as intended.
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FRONT HAND GUARD (Front hand guards are provided on all Homelite saws.)

Protects left hand from contact with the saw chain.	Adds slight weight. May snag in the brush.	Loss of protection.	May fail to protect if bent, loose, damaged or broken.	May provide less protection than original guard.
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DEVICE TO PREVENT INJURIES FROM KICKBACK

SAFE•T•TIP® ANTI-KICKBACK DEVICE

You still have to control PULL and PUSH as well as the tendency of the chain to slide along the work rather than penetrate it. But, the SAFE•T•TIP Device really does prevent kickback from happening, because it covers the tip of the bar where kickback is generated. Inexperienced persons should never attempt any kind of cutting where the Device would have to be removed from the bar tip.

Those users, such as professional loggers, who may need to draw the tip through the cut, make boring cuts, or cut logs bigger than the bar length should replace the Device as soon as those cuts are complete. When cutting with the Device removed, the user must rely on careful use of the proper techniques as shown in the manual to avoid kickback. With proper care to keep the Device properly mounted and tightened on the bar, the SAFE•T•TIP Device will prevent kickback for the life of the unit. If allowed to loosen, it may catch the chain. Replace only if damaged.

DEVICES TO REDUCE INJURIES FROM KICKBACK



RAKER III® LOW KICKBACK SAW CHAIN

The three rakers (depth gauges) ahead of each cutter can minimize the force of a kickback reaction by preventing the cutters rounding the tip of the bar from digging in too deeply at the kickback zone. Raker III chain is a

key factor enabling your saw to meet the ANSI standard which requires that a saw shall kick back no more than 45 degrees under simulated conditions. These conditions are intended only to provide reference numbers for comparison (like EPA mileage ratings which may not represent actual fuel economy). A rating below 45 degrees *does not* mean the saw cannot kick much higher in actual use.

Under some conditions Raker III saw chain may not cut as smoothly or quickly as conventional chain. When cutting logs with smooth bark, the chain may tend to skid or slide along the work before penetrating into a cut. Top performance of Raker III chain is obtained by frequent, precise chain maintenance.

Properly maintained Raker III chain may lose a bit of its kickback-reducing ability with every sharpening. This is due to the increase in space between rakers and teeth as the cutters are filed back. The chain will be rough-cutting, "grabby," and more kickback-prone if the cutters have a forward hook shape, rakers are filed too low or have an improper contour.

Generally: a) Dullness does not increase the kickback potential of a chain very much, b) improperly sharpened chain, especially the too-low filing of the rakers, may have a significantly higher kickback potential, and c) even with care to maintain the proper cutter angles and raker depths, the kickback potential can increase slightly with each filing.

HOMELITE® GUIDE BARS

Generally, guide bars with small radius tips have somewhat lower kickback potentials, but at the sacrifice of both cutting efficiency and durability. Therefore Homelite equips only electric saws with the narrow tip bars.

Homelite gasoline saws meet the kickback-reduction requirements of ANSI B175.1 without need for small radius tip bars.

When making a replacement be sure to order one of the Homelite bars listed for your saw in this owner's instruction. The proper size SAFE•T•TIP Device comes installed on the bar. Bars of other manufacture which lack provision for mounting this kickback preventing Device should not be used.

The ability of a kickback-reduction guide bar to reduce kickback does not normally diminish with either wear or normal use. But the owner's manual instructions for bar maintenance should be followed to prevent chain damage and preserve saw performance.

FRONT HAND GUARD

Your saw has a factory-installed front hand guard. On some models it can be pivoted out of the way for fueling. Do not remove this guard or replace it with a substitute (which may not offer the same level of protection). Maintain the guard in good condition. Do not let it snag in the underbrush. Do not use the guard as a hand grip. Replace it if damaged or broken.

CHAIN BRAKE

Even if you purchased a chain brake-equipped model, Homelite has supplied a SAFE•T•TIP® anti-kickback device for it. This is because a chain brake does not prevent kickback any more than a seat belt prevents collisions. A chain brake can only stop chain rotation. For your safety, rely on the SAFE•T•TIP Device to prevent kickback. Also depend on using the proper grip and stance, and the safe cutting techniques recommended in your owner's manual to control the forces which tend to push or pull you and the saw during cutting.

At its best, a chain brake offers only partial protection against injury from kickback. In some situations it may be impossible for the brake mechanism to stop the chain before the saw blade reaches the operator. This is especially true in situations where the operator is positioned in close proximity to the saw blade.

A chain brake is not like a fire extinguisher which can be certified to work for a certain time. Too many things like breakage or wear, dirt, dust, sawdust, chain oil, and temperature changes in the chain saw's environment can reduce the chain brake's ability to stop the chain. The best chance you can give the brake to react effectively is to keep it clean. Even with daily cleaning of the mechanism, the dependability of a chain brake to perform under field conditions cannot be certified or even gauged. Keep the SAFE•T•TIP Device on your saw's guide bar, and use proper cutting techniques.

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