



April, 2020

Considerations When Cleaning and Disinfecting Power Tools, Electric Lawn and Garden Equipment and Appliances

Individuals and organizations may wish to follow the advice of the Center for Disease Control's recommendations (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/cleaning-disinfection.html>) under the "Hard (Non-porous) Surfaces" section for cleaning and disinfecting power tools, electric lawn and garden equipment and appliances, but in doing so should observe certain precautions. Many chemicals and cleaners can affect the safety of these products if these substances enter the product through openings or seams in the product enclosure. These substances may cause corrosion of circuitry and components resulting in fire or mechanical malfunction, a degradation of a product's insulation resulting in electric shock or other conditions that may lead to fire, electric shock or personal injury, including death. It should be noted that the effect of these substances entering the product may not be immediate. To avoid these occurrences, it is recommended that the following precautions are observed:

- Always unplug any devices and remove batteries prior to cleaning.
- Cloths, sponges or wipes used for wiping the outside of the product with a liquid substance must be wrung out thoroughly so that no liquid enters the product.
- Electrical terminals of products and the prongs and connectors of power cords or other cables must be avoided. When wiping batteries, be sure to avoid the terminal area where contact is made between the battery and the product.
- Allow the product time to dry after cleaning before reapplying power or reattaching the battery.
- Do not use chemicals, cleaners or disinfecting solutions that are harsh, corrosive or can interact with the materials of the tool. Household cleaners and disinfectants are typically safe to use, but the use of other chemicals, not formulated into cleaners or disinfectants should be avoided.