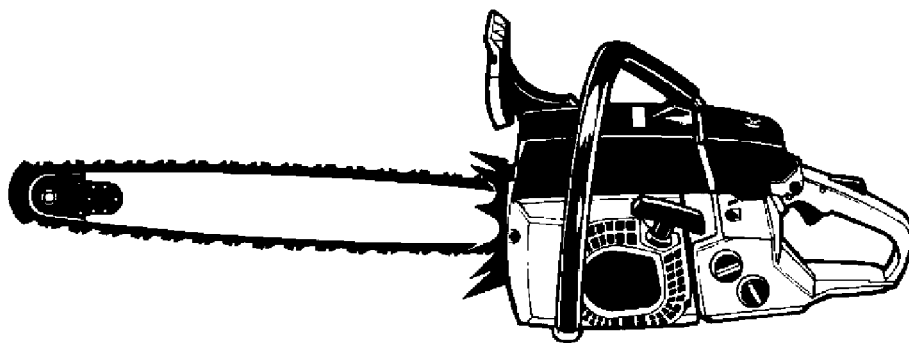


JOHN DEERE

OWNER'S MANUAL



550CS

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CONTENTS

POWERHEAD, BAR & CHAIN	2
SAFETY PRECAUTIONS	3
KICKBACK, PUSH & PULL	4
Controlling Reaction Forces	4
Push and Pull	4
Kickback	4
Safe-T-Tip®	4
Guide Bars	5
Other Protection	5
How to Maintain Control	7
How to Reduce Kickback	7
Without Anti-Kickback Device	8
Safe-T-Tip® Uses	9
550CS Chain Saw	10
Protective Equipment	10
SECTION 1 - PREPARING FOR USE	11
Installing Safe-T-Tip®	11
Bumper Spike Installation	11
Bar and Chain assembly	12
Chain Tension	12
Daily Bar and Chain Care	13
Filling the Tank	14
Chain Oil	14
Break-In-Procedure	14
Fueling (After Break-In)	14
How to Fuel	14
Starting and Stopping	15
SECTION 2 - THE WORKING AREA	16
Work Area Precautions	16
Handling and Securing the Saw	17
Unusual Conditions	17

SECTION 3 - TECHNIQUES (Cutting)	18
Bucking, Limbing, Pruning	18
Variations	18
Springpoles	19
Boring	19
Tree Felling Techniques	20
Felling Leaners	21
SECTION 4 - MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR	22
Square Ground Chisel Chain	22
Filing Equipment	22
How to File Cutters	22
Corrective Filing	23
Raker (Depth Gauge) Clearance	24
Guide Bar Maintenance	24
Clutch and Sprocket	25
Chain Break Maintenance	25
Air Filter	25
Carburetor Adjustment	26
Fuel System	27
Chain Oil System	27
Ignition, Cooling and Exhaust	28
Spark Plug	28
Muffler	28
Starter	29
Storage	30
For Your Record	30

RECOMMENDED BAR AND CHAIN COMBINATIONS			
LENGTH OF BAR	GUIDE BAR NO.	CHAIN PART NO.	CHAIN TYPE NO.
24" Sprocket Nose	DD 08190	J1 M7281 AH	38 MD50 81 HSV

SYMBOL DEFINITIONS:



Indicates Warning, Danger, and Caution.



The SAFE-T-TIP® Nose Guard on your bar nose prevents kickback.



DANGER! Beware of Kickback.



Do not use one-handed.



Avoid bar nose contact.



Hold saw properly with both hands.



Read all Safety, Operating and Maintenance Instructions.



Wear eye and hearing protection when operating this equipment.



Diagonal line across a symbol "prohibited" or "to be avoided."

ATTENTION

Your Chain Saw has been fully factory tested. It is normal to find some slight oil residue on the saw.

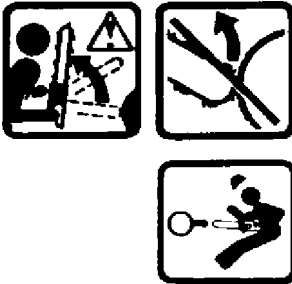


WARNING

READ THE OWNER'S MANUAL BEFORE USING YOUR CHAIN SAW. FOLLOW ALL INSTRUCTIONS FOR SAFE OPERATION.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS FOR CHAIN SAW USERS

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 JOHN DEERE'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 JOHN DEERE. Other bars and chains may have greater kickback potential.
- Keep up to date with the latest technology in chain saw safety devices and equipment. (Address is on back page.)

OTHER BASIC SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

BASIC PRECAUTIONS FOR PERSONAL SAFETY

- Use safety footwear, snug-fitting clothing, and eye, hearing and head protection.
- Wear non-slip gloves to improve your grip. Do not wear scarfs, jewelry, or neckties which could be drawn into the engine or catch on the chain or underbrush.
- Always hold the chain saw with both hands when the engine is running. Use a firm grip with thumbs and fingers encircling the chain saw handles.
- GUARD AGAINST KICKBACK:
 - a) Hold the chain saw firmly with both hands. Don't overreach. You cannot maintain good control of the saw if you cut above shoulder height.
 - b) Don't let the nose of the guide bar contact a log, branch, the ground or any other obstruction. Keep the SAFE-T-TIP® anti-kickback device properly mounted on the guide bar.
 - c) Cut at high engine speeds.
 - d) Keep the chain sharp. Don't operate with a loose chain. Maintain the correct tension of the chain as prescribed in this Owner's Manual.

- Guard against the effects of a long or continuous exposure to noise, such as involved in the operation of a chain saw. Hearing protection devices are available from your local JOHN DEERE dealer.
- Never operate a chain saw when you are fatigued.
- Keep all parts of your body away from the saw chain when the engine is running.

BASIC PRECAUTIONS WITH CHAIN SAWS

- Always carry the chain saw with the engine stopped, the guide bar and saw chain to the rear, and the muffler away from your body. When transporting your chain saw, use the appropriate guide bar and scabbard available from your JOHN DEERE Dealer.
- Always use caution when handling fuel. Move the chain saw at least 10 feet (3 m) from the fueling point before starting the engine.
- Keep the handles dry, clean and free of oil or fuel mixture.
- Before you start the engine, make sure the saw chain is not contacting anything.
- Shut off the engine before setting down the saw. Do not leave the engine running unattended.
- Operate the chain saw only in well ventilated areas.
- Be sure that the chain stops moving when the throttle control is released.

BASIC PRECAUTIONS ABOUT MAINTENANCE

- Never operate a chain saw that is damaged, improperly adjusted, or is not completely and securely assembled. Be sure that the saw chain stops moving when the throttle control trigger is released.
- All chain saw service, other than items in the Owner's Manual maintenance instructions, should be performed by competent chain saw service personnel. (If improper tools are used to remove the flywheel or clutch, or if an improper tool is used to hold the flywheel in order to remove the clutch, structural damage to the flywheel could occur which could subsequently cause the flywheel to burst.)

BASIC PRECAUTIONS IN CUTTING/WORK AREA

- Do not operate a chain saw in a tree unless you have been specifically trained to do so.
- Keep bystanders and animals out of the work area.
- Never start cutting until you have a clear work area, secure footing, and a planned retreat path from the falling tree.
- Use extreme caution when cutting small size brush and saplings, because slender material may catch the saw chain and be whipped toward you or pull you off balance.
- When cutting a limb that is under tension, be alert for spring back so that you will not be struck when the tension in the wood fibers is released.

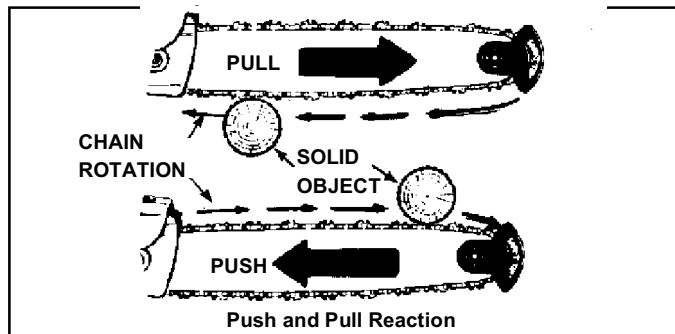
KICKBACK, PUSH, AND PULL and how these reaction forces are best controlled

CONTROLLING THE REACTION FORCES

The powerhead (engine) drives the chain to cut into the wood. Being hard, the wood exerts a reaction force against the saw. This force can be controlled. And it is an alert operator, not a safety device, who does the controlling. The inherent danger of a safety device is lulling the user into a false sense of security. The means of controlling the saw include keeping a balanced stance, keeping the left elbow straight, and using the proper grip to hold the saw firmly in both hands.

PUSH AND PULL

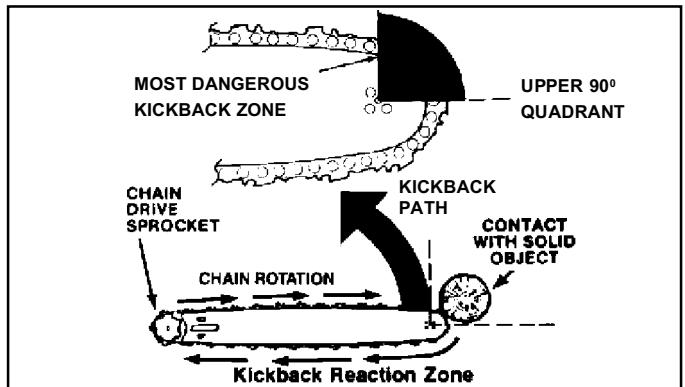
The reaction force is always opposite to the direction the chain is moving when wood contact is made. Thus, the operator must be ready to control the PULL when cutting on the bottom edge of the bar, and PUSH when cutting along the top edge. These reactions are referred to in the manual as PULL and PUSH.



THE SAFE-T-TIP DEVICE DOES NOT PREVENT OR REDUCE PUSH AND PULL REACTION

KICKBACK is another reaction, the most dangerous of these (3) reactive forces. It occurs only when solid contact with moving chain is made at the upper quadrant of the bar nose. A violent reaction will occur any time the chain hits a solid object (or takes too large a cut) while rounding this top quadrant of the bar nose. For the instant that the chain is stopped cold, the engine drives the guide bar to rotate inside the chain loop. This results in a pinwheeling rotation of the saw with bar and chain during which the chain saw kicks back in an arc towards the operator. This is **KICKBACK** the most dangerous of the reactions which can cause loss of control. When properly installed on a saw, a **SAFE-T-TIP** anti-kickback device prevents kickback. But it is not a general insurance against "accidents" with a chain saw.

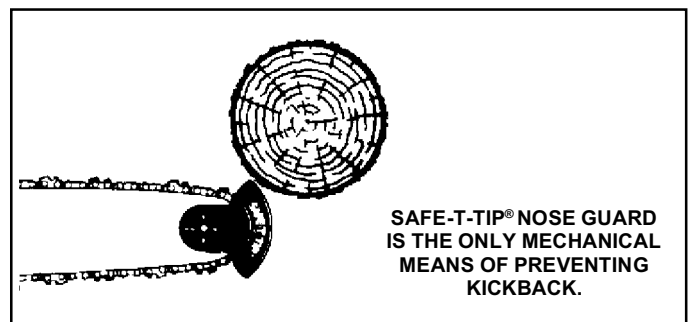
Even though it is up to you to keep control of the saw, certain of the ANSI-recommended safety devices may help protect you as explained above:

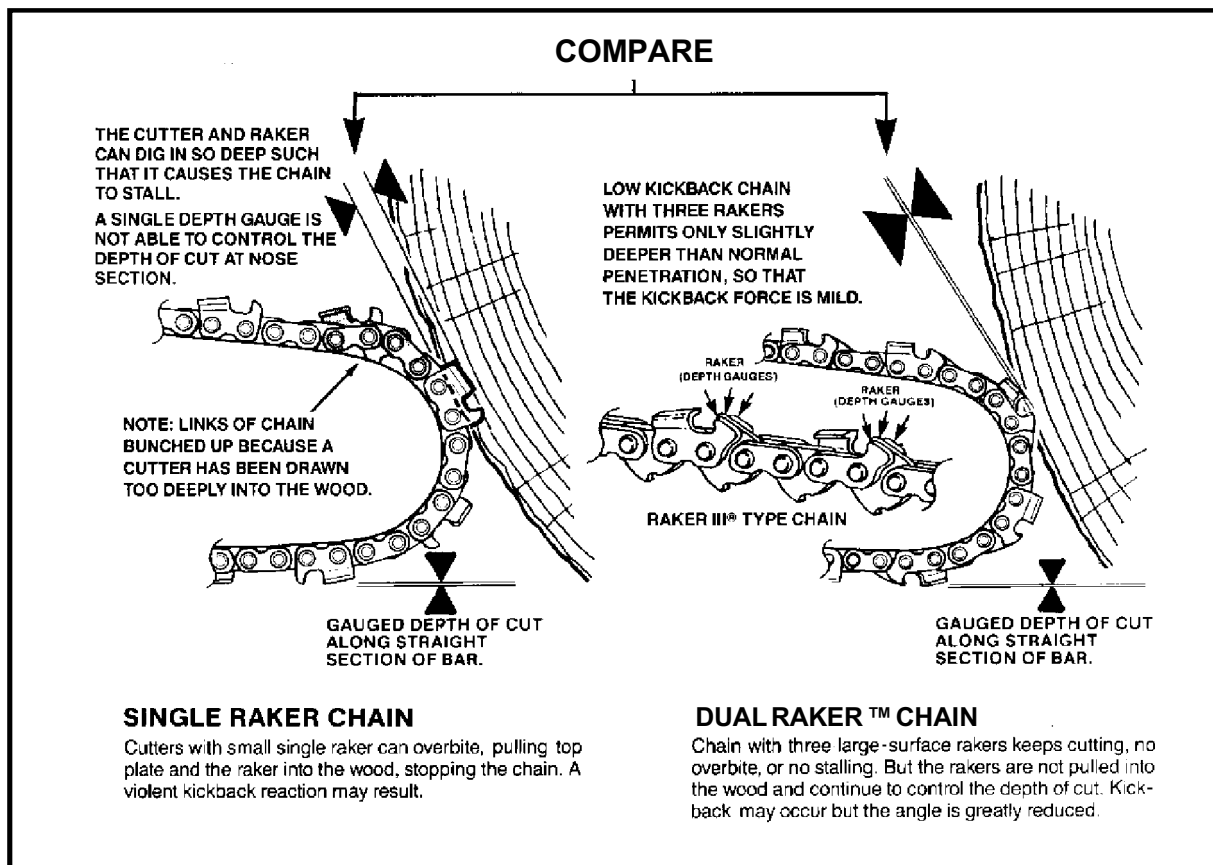


SAFE-T-TIP® ANTI-KICKBACK DEVICE

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.





GUIDE BARS

Generally, guide bars with small radius tips have somewhat lower kickback potentials, but at the sacrifice of both cutting efficiency and durability.

When making a replacement be sure to order one of the JOHN DEERE 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.

OTHER PROTECTION AND PROTECTIVE DEVICES

THE OWNER'S MANUAL

Your owner's manual is for your protection. READ IT. Keep it handy for reference. Know what you are doing before you begin assembly of the unit. Proper preparation and upkeep go hand-in hand with satisfactory performance of the saw and safety.

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 fit as well as the original design). 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.

WARNING

For your own safety do not use guide bar and saw chains other than those listed for your model saw on page 2. Do not adapt your powerhead to a bow guide or use it to power any attachments or devices not listed for your saw in current JOHN DEERE sales literature. Chain saws and related equipment periodically are subject to modification. Keep yourself informed of the latest in attachments and new features for your saw by contacting our manager of customer relations. Our address is on the back cover.

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