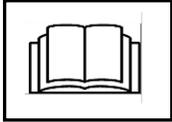


Your rental associate or technician will explain each of the following operating steps and safety practices before you use this trencher.



**WARNING:** Do not use or attempt to operate the machine until you understand proper operation and safety of the machine. Read the operator's manual. Read safety signs attached to the machine. If you are unsure of content or meaning of the safety messages or information regarding machine operation, ask your rental associate or technician for more details.

**INTENDED USE:** Vermeer RTX250 is a pedestrian-operated self-propelled rubber track mounted trencher with optional backfill blade or horizontal boring attachment to perform various functions such as trenching, backfilling the trench and horizontal boring.

### OPERATING STEPS

#### 1. Trencher Start:

- Check all machine fluid levels and condition of air cleaner before starting machine.
- Place "Propel" and "Digging Chain Drive" levers in NEUTRAL position.
- Move "Throttle" lever to ¼ speed. **Do not** squeeze the "Operator Presence Lever" while starting.
- Turn "Key Switch" clockwise to start engine. Release switch when engine starts then reduce "Throttle" to idle.

#### 2. Trencher Transport:

- Before transporting machine on a trailer, read trailer manual for safety precautions and loading information. Ensure gross weight of machine with attachments is within the gross weight limits of the trailer and the towing vehicle. Approximate weight of RTX250 trencher is 1800 lb (816.5 kg).
- Clean machine to keep any debris off highway. If equipped with optional "Porta-Bore" attachment, raise and lock it in transport position.
- Fully raise trencher boom. Use steering and propel controls to position machine in-line with trailer ramps and set "Throttle" to half speed. From level ground, drive machine squarely onto trailer and stop at tie-down position. Reduce speed to idle, shut off engine and remove key.
- Secure machine to trailer using standard tie-down procedures with one front and two rear tie-down points.
- Reverse procedure for unloading machine from trailer. Ensure trailer is on level ground. Avoid unloading if ramps are slick.

#### 3. Trencher Setup:

- Contact the local One-Call system in your area to request location of all underground utilities near work area.
- Operating the machine will require you to wear protective equipment. Always wear a hard hat, safety shoes, hearing protectors and eye protection. If working near traffic, wear reflective clothing.
- Examine work area for any obstructions, conditions, or situations which may impair machine operation or create a safety hazard for the operator or other persons. Look for evidence or notices of underground placements, manhole covers, drop boxes and recent trenching activity. All utilities in these areas should be marked and avoided.
- Either the trench cleaner assembly or restraint bar must be in place on the trencher boom while digging. These are intended to help protect against accidental personal contact with the digging chain.
- Disengage "Digging Chain Drive" when driving between trenches. Never ride on machine.

#### 4. Opening a Trench:

- Squeeze red "Operator Presence Lever" on left handlebar, use steering and propel controls to line up machine at beginning of trench.
- If equipped with trench cleaner, shut off machine and raise and secure trench cleaner.
- Follow Starting Procedure and squeeze red "Operator Presence Lever." Move "Throttle" to full speed.
- With "Digging Chain Drive" engaged in FORWARD, lower trencher boom slowly to the desired digging depth. **NOTICE:** Lowering boom too quickly will result in excessive boom and machine bounce. A small amount of rearward ground travel during the plunge cut may help in reducing boom and machine bounce. Trencher will **STOP** anytime the "Operator Presence Lever" is released.
- If using trench cleaner, stop digging chain after plunge cut, raise trencher boom until chain is out of ground and shut off machine. Release trench cleaner, restart machine, engage digging chain in FORWARD and lower trencher boom to desired digging depth.
- Adjust rearward ground travel speed for the best productivity when the required trench depth has been reached.
- Use handlebar steering controls to maintain trenching direction.

#### 5. Restarting Stalled Machine:

- If digging chain snags material and stalls engine, place "Propel" and "Digging Chain Drive" levers in NEUTRAL and restart engine. Slightly raise trencher boom and momentarily REVERSE digging chain to free obstruction.
- Engage "Digging Chain Drive" in FORWARD, lower trencher boom to desired digging depth and resume trenching.

#### 6. Shutdown Procedure:

- Place "Propel" and "Digging Chain Drive" levers in NEUTRAL and raise trencher boom.
- Reduce engine speed to idle, turn off engine and remove key.
- If parked on a slope, turn machine to face across the slope or install parking "PIN" in left side track sprocket to prevent machine from rolling downhill.

Operator's manual and rental center guide are available in other languages. Contact [productsafety@vermeer.com](mailto:productsafety@vermeer.com). Se dispone del manual del operador y de la guía de centros de alquiler en otros idiomas. Póngase en contacto con [productsafety@vermeer.com](mailto:productsafety@vermeer.com).

**See other side for Safety Practices**

Visit Vermeer at [www.vermeer.com](http://www.vermeer.com) to locate your local Vermeer dealer.

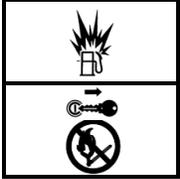
Your rental associate or technician will explain to you each of the following safety practices and operating steps before you use this trencher.

### SAFETY PRACTICES

Below are selected safety messages. Additional safety information is contained in safety signs on the machine and in the operator's manual attached to the machine.



**WARNING:** Keep all spectators and unprotected workers away from the machine and work area while in operation.



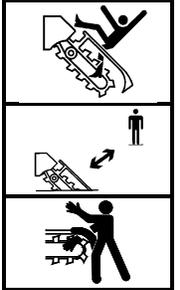
**WARNING:** Fuel and fumes can explode and burn.

Shut off engine before refueling. No flame. No smoking.



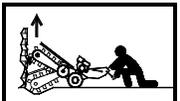
**WARNING:** Electricity or gas explosion can kill. Laser light in cut cable can cause eye damage.

Before you start any digging project, call the local One-Call system in your area and any utility that does not subscribe to the One-Call system.



**DANGER:** Contact with moving digging chain will result in death or serious injury. Trench cave-in may cause you to fall onto moving chain.

- Stay away from moving digging chain.
- Never adjust trench cleaner assembly with the digging chain or engine running.

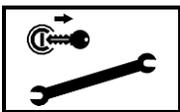


**WARNING:** The digging chain can suddenly drag the machine forward if the trencher is forced too quickly into the ground or catches on an object. Stay away from houses, fences, trees and other objects. Digging chain can climb upward quickly and turn machine over rearward. Serious injury or death can result if struck by machine.



**WARNING:** Runover/Rollover can crush.

- Keep feet away from tracks. Avoid situations where rollover can occur.
- Do not allow anyone to ride on machine.



**WARNING:** Use Shutdown Procedure explained in the operator's manual before servicing, cleaning, repairing or transporting the machine.



**WARNING:** Failure to follow any of the preceding safety instructions or those shown on the machine or in the operator's manual could result in serious injury or death. This machine is to be used for only those purposes for which it was intended as explained in the operator's manual.

**See other side for Operating Steps**

Visit Vermeer at [www.vermeer.com](http://www.vermeer.com) to locate your local Vermeer dealer.

### HORIZONTAL BORING (Porta Bore) OPERATING STEPS

(When used with RTX250 trencher)

**NOTICE:** Refer to RTX250 Trencher Operating Steps and Safety Practices before operating horizontal boring attachment.

#### 1. Horizontal Boring Setup: (Porta Bore)

- Boring requires a trained operator and a trained helper. Operator must be present at the machine and operating the controls. The helper aligns the bore, changes drilling rods, attaches cutters and watches drilling operation.
- Refer to the RTX250 trencher operator's manual for instructions on how to prepare work site before making a bore.
- Do not engage boring motor rotation with pipe wrench attached onto drill rod. Never have more than 20' (6.1 m) of drill rod exposed between bore entrance and machine.
- Control FORWARD travel speed to avoid bending rod, causing drill string to whip.
- Always use FORWARD rotation when boring. Reversing motor direction when using threaded pipe-type drill rod may uncouple rod in the bored hole.

#### 2. Horizontal Boring Operation: (Porta Bore)

- Fully raise trencher attachment. Using spring-loaded pin, lower and lock boring attachment motor into operating position. Uncouple hoses from trencher motor and couple to porta bore motor.
- Use "Steering" and "Propel" levers to line up machine at beginning of bore path.
- Follow instructions in operator's manual to install universal joint onto boring motor shaft. Assemble one or two drill rods and the desired cutting head and attach to motor universal joint.
- Follow Starting Procedure and keep "Throttle" at low rpm. Squeeze red "Operator Presence Lever" and move "Trencher/Porta Bore" lever to FORWARD to start boring attachment in clockwise direction. Use "Propel Control" to slightly creep tractor FORWARD. Ensure machine travel direction is aligned with direction of bore. While standing beside and outside of the entrance pit, the helper must use the supplied "Rod Guide Tool" behind the cutter head to start the head into the ground.
- Stop the machine and remove the "Rod Guide Tool" after head has entered the ground. Use a level to check bore alignment and resume boring. Follow instructions in the operator's manual for adding additional sections of drill rod and placement of additional drill rod guide stakes as needed.
- When bore is complete, back machine away from bore entrance until one or two rods are withdrawn. Stop machine, uncouple and remove exposed rod connected to boring motor. Move machine toward entrance trench and recouple to drill rod(s). With helper, clear area, start machine, and continue removing one or two rods at a time until all tooling is withdrawn from bore.

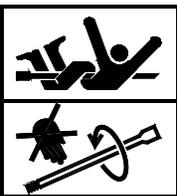
#### 3. Shutdown Procedure:

- Place "Propel" and "Porta Bore" levers in NEUTRAL position.
- Reduce engine speed to idle, turn off engine and remove key.
- When finished boring, remove universal joint from the boring motor, transfer hoses from boring motor to trencher motor and raise and lock boring motor into transport position.

### HORIZONTAL BORING (Porta Bore) SAFETY PRACTICES



**DANGER:** Serious injury is possible if struck by pipe wrench on rotating drill rod. Remove wrench before starting engine and boring attachment.



**WARNING:** Rotating rod can kill. Clothing can snag.

Stay away. Do not wear loose clothing that can catch on rotating equipment.



**WARNING:** Serious injury or death is possible if struck by guide tool. Never use hands, feet, shovel, rake, or other tools to manually assist the boring attachment.