

Backhoe loaders



T H E
Rental
S T O R E[®]



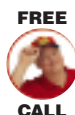
Operator Efficiency Tips

- Check before you dig - contact your local authorities for the location of any underground utilities or communication lines in the area.
- Keep it clean - wipe your machine down daily, clean the windows and pick up any debris in the cab. By keeping the exterior clean, you can easily spot any fluid leaks before they get worse and result in downtime. Debris in the cab can get lodged in the controls and cause a problem.
- Get a good stance - before you dig, make sure the backhoe loader is stable. Your stance will vary according to the terrain and the application, but a rule of thumb is to set out the stabilizers and then raise the tyres no more than three inches off the ground. Also, set your loader bucket on the ground for even more stability.
- Use the right stick - for digging in sandy soil or clay, the extendible stick option is ideal. But in severe digging conditions (rocky soil) or close-crowding applications, it's better to dig with the E-stick retracted.
- Practice smoothness - blend the four functions of the backhoe loader (swing and boom control with stick and bucket control) to create a smooth-operating machine. Fast and jerky motions can result in sloppy trenching and can even damage equipment. Slowing your movements can make your machine's operation smoother and more productive.
- Get comfortable - to make your working day comfortable and productive, it is important to well adjust the seat and controls. Once you have positioned the seat and steering wheel, adjust the armrests and positioning of the controls. After you get used to the controls, try to fine tune the position of the armrest and steering wheel, small adjustments can result in big improvements in comfort.
- All wheel drive only when needed - although the Cat backhoe loaders feature all wheel drive as a valuable job site option, it's best to stay in rear-wheel drive as much as possible, especially on hard surfaces. This will save wear-and-tear on the drive train and tyres.

- Don't grab it all - make consistent three to four inch deep cuts during trenching operations. Steady digging, as opposed to slashing deep to fill the bucket each time, makes you more productive because the cut is more precise the first time through.
- Start digging 'short' - dig short of the point you want to reach, then gradually extend the stick for speed and productivity. Using this method, the dirt is always coming to you instead of rolling away. You won't spend time cleaning up what you've already excavated.
- Leave the bucket flat - when using the front loader, many operators angle the bucket forward and attack the pile in a scooping action. This can cause you to lose traction and possibly the load. It is also more stressful on the drive train. It's better to keep the bucket flat on the ground as you approach the pile when loading, then lift and skim the pile.
- Drag the cutting edge - in grading and leveling operations, it's recommended that you roll the loader bucket over, with the cutting edge to the rear. Using the bucket's top and cutting edge give you two leveling surfaces for better machine stability and control. Also, when you backdrag, dragging the cutting edge minimises gouging and the need to grade an area a second time, as is common with the more traditional bucket up and angled forward position.
- Let the hydraulics do the work - loading operations do not necessarily require brute strength with your machine in low gear. Select the gear that will provide the proper rimpull without allowing the tyres to spin.

Please read the machine Operation and Maintenance Manual for complete operating instructions.

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