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

2. **Trencher Transport:**
   a. 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).
   b. Clean machine to keep any debris off highway. If equipped with optional "Porta-Bore" attachment, raise and lock it in transport position.
   c. Fully raise trencher boom. Use steering and propel controls to position machine in-line with trailer ramps and set "Throttle" to half speed.
   d. From level ground, drive machine square onto trailer and stop at tie-down position. Reduce speed to idle, shut off engine and remove key.
   e. Secure machine to trailer using standard tie-down procedures with one front and two rear tie-down points.
   f. Reverse procedure for unloading machine from trailer. Ensure trailer is on level ground. Avoid unloading if ramps are slick.

3. **Trencher Setup:**
   a. Contact the local One-Call system in your area to request location of all underground utilities near work area.
   b. Operate 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.
   c. 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.
   d. 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.
   e. Disengage "Digging Chain Drive" when driving between trenches. Never ride on machine.

4. **Opening a Trench:**
   a. Squeeze red "Operator Presence Lever" on left handlebar, use steering and propel controls to line up machine at beginning of trench.
   b. If equipped with trench cleaner, shut off machine and secure trench cleaner.
   d. 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.
   e. If using trench cleaner, stop digging chain after plunge cut, raise trencher boom until chain is out of ground and shut off machine.
   f. Adjust rearward ground travel speed for the best productivity when the required trench depth has been reached.
   g. Use handlebar steering controls to maintain trenching direction.

5. **Restarting Stalled Machine:**
   a. 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.
   b. Engage "Digging Chain Drive" in FORWARD, lower trencher boom to desired digging depth and resume trenching.

6. **Shutdown Procedure:**
   a. Place "Propel" and "Digging Chain Drive" levers in NEUTRAL and raise trencher boom.
   b. Reduce engine speed to idle, turn off engine and remove key.
   c. 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. Se dispone del manual del operador y de la guía de centros de alquiler en otros idiomas. Póngase en contacto con productsafety@vermeer.com.

See other side for Safety Practices
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.

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

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

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

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**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.

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**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.

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**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.

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

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

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

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**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.

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See other side for Operating Steps