

Maintenance Section

4.4 PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE

CAUTION

Remove the lead spark plug wires before attempting any maintenance procedures.

WARNING

Thoroughly read and understand the safety and pre-operating sections of this manual before performing any maintenance procedures.

The following are general preventative maintenance procedures for our standard units. Any special or custom built units may have other preventative maintenance procedures not directly mentioned in this manual. Please consult ODB before doing any preventative maintenance procedures not specifically mentioned in this manual.

Proper preventative maintenance of your unit, just like lubrication, correlates directly to how long your unit will last. A properly maintained unit will last much longer than a unit that is not maintained properly.

Preventative Maintenance:

1. **Engine Oil:** Change the oil and oil filter according to schedules provided in your engine's owner's manual (EOM). The engine oil level should be checked every day. The level should be checked after the engine has been stopped for a period of time. This will allow the oil to drain back into the oil pan, allowing a better indication of the true oil level. If the level is low, see the engine's owner's manual for the correct type of oil.
2. **Engine Coolant:** Check the coolant level before starting the unit each day. The coolant level should not be less than one inch below the top of the radiator.

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NEVER check the engine coolant when the engine is hot. Allow the engine to cool at least one hour before checking the coolant. Check the engine owner's manual for instructions. **ALWAYS** wear eye and hand protection when working with the radiator.

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Preventative Maintenance, continued;

- Engine Radiator:** The engine radiator on a leaf vacuum becomes clogged with dust and debris frequently because of the nature of the job. If the radiator is not cleaned properly it WILL cause improper cooling and WILL eventually cause serious damage to your engine. The debris accumulating on the radiator can be lessened by lowering the RPM on the engine to a level just enough to vacuum the leaves. The higher the RPM the more dust that is put into the air. Also, it may be necessary to put mesh or tarps on the top of the leaf box container to reduce the debris and dust. If this is done, make sure there is enough air ventilation on the box so the box is not blown apart. Proper belt condition and coolant mix-ratio, as well as coolant conditioners, are all critical to proper engine cooling. See the engine owner's manual for specifics on coolant mixture ratios and conditioners. The radiator should be inspected and cleaned with compressed air every day at the very least.

 **DANGER**

NEVER attempt to clean or inspect the radiator with the engine running or while the engine is HOT. Allow the engine to cool at least one hour before maintaining the radiator. Check the engine owner's manual for instructions. ALWAYS wear eye and hand protection when working with the radiator.

- Engine Air Cleaner:** Due to the large amounts of dust generated in collection leaves, it is critical to your engine's life that the pre-cleaner and air filter be maintained properly. The pre-cleaner (if equipped) should be cleaned at least daily of any debris that has accumulated. If conditions warrant it should be cleaned more. The air filter should be checked daily and should be replaced at the first sign of it being dirty. See the engine's owner's manual for details. It is a good idea to clean out the air filter housing once a week to clean any dust debris that may have accumulated.
- Tires and Wheels:** Tires and wheel lug nuts should be checked on a daily basis. Tires should be checked for excessive wear and proper air pressure. Check the side wall of the tire for proper inflation pressure. Torque all 1/2" diameter lug nuts from 90 to 120 foot pounds. Torque all 5/8" diameter lug nuts from 175 to 225 foot pounds. Consult the axle manufacturer's owner's manual for more detailed information.

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6. **Trailer Brakes (if equipped):** Most of the newer ODB leaf vacuums have electric brakes on the axle(s). It is critical that these brakes work properly. The trailer's brakes should be checked daily, before leaving the equipment yard, for proper operation. The trailer brakes are designed to work in synchronization with your tow vehicles brakes. Never use your tow vehicle or trailer brakes alone to stop the combined load. The synchronization between the tow vehicle and the leaf vacuum is accomplished through the brake controller and needs to be set correctly. Please read the brake controllers manual and the axle owner's manual for these procedures.



DO NOT tow the leaf vacuum with damaged or non-operating brakes. Check the brakes daily for proper operation.

The brakes should be adjusted after the first 200 miles of operation when the brake shoes and drums have "seated" and at 3,000 mile intervals, or as use and performance requires. The adjustment procedures are beyond the scope of this manual, please see the axle owners/service manual for specific instructions.

The trailer brakes should be inspected and serviced at yearly intervals or more often as use and performance requires. Magnets and shoes must be changed when they become worn or scored thereby preventing adequate vehicle braking. Again, see the axle owner's/service manual for specific procedures.

7. **FUEL TANK:** Fill the fuel tank at the beginning of the work shift leaving a gap of at the top of the tank for expansion of fuel. A full fuel tank will reduce the possibility of condensation forming in the tank and moisture entering the fuel lines. Check the fuel lines daily for cracks, holes or tightness.

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Preventative Maintenance, continued;

CAUTION

ALWAYS wear eye and hand protection when working with the battery.

8. **BATTERY:** ODB's units are supplied with "maintenance free" batteries so there is no need to check fluid levels but the battery terminals should be checked daily for corrosion. Remove any corrosion with a wire brush and coat the terminals with light grease or petroleum jelly to reduce the possibility of corrosion. Also check the battery cable for wear all cable connections and battery tie downs to be certain that they are not loose.
9. **DRIVE BELT (if equipped):** The main drive belt should be checked daily for cracks and for proper tension. If the belt shows any sign of

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cracking it should be replaced immediately. The proper tension of the belt should be approximately 1/2" deflection when applying a 8 pound pull.

10. **FASTENERS:** Fasteners should be checked weekly for the first 30 days and monthly thereafter. They must be in place at all times and properly torqued. For general torque values see the torque chart at the end of this section.