

Section 30: Operating the Tool

CALL YOUR ONE-CALL SYSTEM FIRST

WARNING: Always contact your local One-Call system before the start of your digging project

Before you start any digging project, don't forget to call the local One-Call system in your area and any utility company that does not subscribe to the One-Call system. For areas not represented by One-Call Systems International, contact the appropriate utility companies or national regulating authority concerned to locate and mark the underground installations. If you don't call, you may have an accident or suffer injuries; cause interruption of services; damage the environment; or experience job delays.

The One-Call representative will notify participating utility companies of your proposed digging activities. If you are in the U.S. or Canada and do not know the number for the local One-Call representative in your area, dial the North American One-Call number, 1-888-258-0808, for this information. Utilities will then mark their underground facilities by using the following international marking codes:

IMPORTANT: Be sure to review the operating and safety instructions for the air compressor and any other support equipment.

Red Electric Green/Brown Sewer
Yellow Gas, Oil or Petroleum White Proposed Excavation
Orange Communication, Telephone, TV Pink Surveying
Blue Potable Water

DO NOT WORK IN TRENCH

Do not work in trench with unstable sides which could cave in. Specific requirements for shoring or sloping trench walls are available from several sources including federal and state O.S.H.A.

ENTRY AND EXIT PITS

The depth of the entry pit should be approximately 10 times the tool diameter.

It should be long enough to keep the service line from kinking during launch.

Dig the exit pit at the correct location, adding extra width and depth to allow for tool misalignment.

PREPARING TO BORE

Step 1: Determine the length of the bore.

Step 2: Starting at the tool, wrap tape over the hose every 3–6 ft (1–2 m). Do this for the length of the bore.

While boring, keep track of the increments to determine the location of the tool.

Keeping track of the time will also enable you to determine how fast the tool is moving.

Step 3: Place tool at the entry pit and aim it toward the exit pit. Place level on the straight surface of the tool.

Use a support under the tool to keep the tool aligned.

Consider type of soil when aligning the tool. Some soils, such as topsoil and sand will cause the tool to rise.

Pitching the nose of the tool slightly downward will provide a more accurate bore. The amount of downward pitch required depends upon the soil type and length of the bore.

NOTE: The Active Head model is designed for use in very hard compacted soils. When using the tool in soft loose soils, it will be necessary to throttle the tool back slightly to prevent "swimming" and insure a more accurate bore.

IMPORTANT: Do not allow dirt or other material into the air hose.

Step 4: Connect hose to an air compressor.

Step 5: Remove any oil or debris that may make the hose slippery.

WARNING: To prevent the hose from whipping, do not fully open the compressor valve.

Be sure to aim the hose away from yourself and other persons.

Step 6: Tightly hold other end of the hose and partially open compressor valve to blow the air hose clean.

NOTE: Be careful not to lose the rubber seal inside the hose coupling when blowing debris from the hose.

Step 7: Close the compressor valve.

Step 8: Turn whip hose (1) clockwise to FORWARD.

Step 9: Ensure air valve control handle is OFF.

Step 10: Fill oiler with HammerHead Mole oil

Step 11: Connect air supply hose to the oiler and the supply hose to the tool.

To avoid accidental uncoupling, tighten all hose locking collars against fittings or install any hose fitting retaining devices such as lock rings, clips, pins, chains, or cables.

BORING

Step 1: Fully open air supply valve to start the striker moving. Do this quickly, then slow it down. This will make it easier to control the tool and start the bore.

NOTE: Launching the tool at reduced power provides time for the operator to accurately aim the tool.

Step 2: Stop tool periodically as it enters the ground. Use a bubble level or aiming site to check the grade and aim. Adjust the direction of the tool if necessary.

Step 3: When the tool reaches the exit pit, shut it OFF.

If the tool does not reach the exit pit at the length marked off on the air hose:

Step 4: Turn air down so that the tool is barely running.

Step 5: Locate tool by sound and vibration.

NOTE: The Active Head Power Port Tool does not have a NEUTRAL position. The tool will be either in FORWARD or REVERSE.

REVERSING DIRECTION

CAUTION: Do not attempt to change direction of the tool without first shutting off the air supply to the tool. Attempting to do so will damage the internal valve of the tool.

Reverse direction of the tool if it becomes stuck or deflected off course.

To reverse direction:

Step 1: Shut tool OFF.

Step 2: Disconnect air supply hose from the oiler.

NOTE: With the optional Quick Reverse swivel, the air supply hose does not need to be disconnected.

Step 3: Turn hose approximately 1/4 turn counterclockwise to the REVERSE position.

NOTE: It may be necessary to turn hose up to 1 full revolution to compensate for the flexibility of the hose.

Step 4: Clean connectors, then reconnect air supply hose.

Step 5: Turn tool ON.

Step 6: During operation, be sure tool stays in REVERSE by checking that the air supply hose is turned fully counterclockwise.

Step 7: Pull air supply hose as the tool is reversing. This will prevent the tool from backing over the air supply hose.