15 **DO NOT** attempt repairs. Contact the Hire Company.

STRIPPER WITH AN ELECTRIC HEATER

16 **CHECK** that the voltage of the supply is correct. The heater will be either 110 volts or 230 volts.

17 The use of low voltage strippers at 110V (CTE) will effectively eliminate the risk of death and greatly reduce the degree of injury from an electric fault.

18 Use strippers with the lowest possible voltage to suit the job.

19 **DO NOT** use domestic plugs and sockets on construction sites, they are not robust enough.

20 **When using 230V wallpaper strippers, the risk of injury or death from electric shock is unacceptably high unless the following precautions are taken:**

a) Use RCD power breakers at the supply socket to give protection for both the tool and its power cable.

b) The RCD should be protected from dust, wet weather, mechanical damage and vibration.

c) Position power cables where they are less likely to be damaged.

d) The tools, cables and RCDs should be checked every day (or every shift) using the following as a guide:

- **CHECK** that bare wires are not visible
- Make sure that cables are not damaged and free from cuts and abrasions (apart from light scuffing)
- **CHECK** that the plug is in good condition, the casing is free from cracks, the pins are not bent or the socket is not blocked with debris or dirt
- **ENSURE** that there are no taped or other non-standard joints in the cable
- **CHECK** that the cable covering has not been pulled out of the grips at the plug or equipment. (The coloured insulation of the internal wires should not be visible)
- **CHECK** the outer casing of the equipment for damage and **CHECK** for loose or missing parts or screws
- Make sure that there are no overheating or burn marks on the plug, cable and equipment
- **CHECK** the operation of the RCD power breaker by operating the test button.

21 Strippers using 110 volts should be checked weekly as in 20(d).

22 **DO NOT** carry the stripper by its electrical cable.

STRIPPER WITH A LIQUID PETROLEUM GAS (LPG) HEATER

23 **DO NOT** store LPG below ground level or within 3 metres of drains, cellars or excavations etc. Both butane and propane are heavier than air and leaking gas will collect at the lowest levels.

24 **DO NOT** use cylinders lying in a horizontal position. It is very dangerous when the liquid enters the connecting hose.

25 **DO NOT** use a damaged cylinder, especially if the valve is damaged or bent.

26 **DO NOT** position the heater near combustible materials.

27 There should be easy access to the cylinder valve at all times.

28 Cylinders should be connected or changed in the open air wherever possible.

29 **CHECK** that valves on the cylinder and stripper are turned off before connecting or disconnecting.

30 **CHECK** for leaks after connecting and before lighting the heater. Leaks can be detected by sound, smell or the use of soapy water.

31 If gas has escaped due to a failure to light, allow the gas to disperse before any further attempt is made to light.

32 If there is any smell of gas after ignition turn off the gas at the cylinder immediately and investigate.

33 If the burner flame dies down or goes out, turn off the gas at the cylinder immediately and investigate the cause before re-lighting.

34 **DO NOT use the equipment in a badly ventilated room if possible. If this cannot be avoided then:**

a) Use fans and ducting to make sure there is good ventilation at both high and low levels to prevent the build up of dangerous fumes or to prevent a build up of LPG in the event of a leak.

b) The LPG cylinder should be located outside the enclosed space whenever practicable, preferably in the open air.

c) The number of stored cylinders must be kept to a minimum.

d) **DO NOT** leave cylinders and hoses in the enclosed space after the work has finished or is interrupted for any length of time.

35 After use turn off the valves on both the equipment and the cylinder.

36 After disconnecting the valve, protection caps and plastic thread caps or plugs should be replaced.

37 Empty cylinders always contain some residual gas and should be stored in the same manner as full cylinders.

38 Faulty equipment should be taken out of service immediately.

39 **In the event of a leakage from a cylinder that cannot be stopped:**

a) Move the cylinder to a well ventilated open space free from sources of ignition.

b) Keep the leak uppermost, (usually at the valve) when both moving and leaving the cylinder.

c) The cylinder must be marked faulty and a notice should be displayed prohibiting smoking and other sources of ignition.

d) The area should be barricaded off to prevent access.

e) **DO NOT** attempt to dismantle or repair the defective cylinder.

f) Contact the supplier immediately.

40 **Procedure in the event of a fire:**

a) Call the fire brigade immediately.

b) Evacuate all persons not concerned with fire fighting immediately.

c) Tell the fire officer where all cylinders are in the location of the fire, as soon as he arrives.

d) If it is safe, attempt to turn off any valve that will extinguish the flame. Remove cylinders from the danger area or cool them with water.

e) If the flames cannot be extinguished leave the fire fighting to the fire brigade.

f) If the flames come in contact with a cylinder and neither the flame or the cylinder can be moved, everybody must evacuate the area immediately.

g) **DO NOT** use any cylinders that have been exposed to fire. Return them to the supplier or Hire Company.

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