

# Using Your Lawn Mower on a Slope? Get Safety Tips from OPEI



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## **Operating any lawn mower on a slope requires caution, vigilance**

Yards, sports fields and other mowing areas are not always flat, and consumers should exercise caution when operating lawn mowers on uneven or sloped terrain. The [Outdoor Power Equipment Institute \(OPEI\)](#) issues the following safety tips to remind consumers about safe procedures when operating lawn mowers on or near slopes.

"If you are using your lawn mower on a slope, it is very important that you pay attention to the terrain, be vigilant of risks and know how to fully operate your mower," said Kris Kiser, President and CEO of OPEI. "These best practices can help lawn mower operators avoid potential mishaps." ❌

## **Safety tips:**

- **Operating any mower on a slope requires extra caution.** Slopes are a major factor related to loss of control and tip over accidents, which can result in severe injury.
- **Use the right equipment for the task.** Don't select a product that may be too small or unsuitable for the job. Ask your retailer or dealer for assistance.
- **Know how to operate your mower.** Read the operator's manual to understand the controls. Know how to stop your mower quickly and disengage the controls.
- **Survey the terrain.** Watch for holes, ruts, bumps, rocks, or other hidden objects. Uneven terrain could overturn the machine. Tall grass can hide obstacles.
- **Be vigilant of risks, especially when operating on a slope.** On a slope there is a risk of slip and slide resulting in a loss of control. Be aware of the risks of rolling backwards, dropping off a wall or bank and

the potential to overturn into a water hazard.

See our [fact sheet](#) on safe operation practices on slopes and visit [www.OPEI.org](http://www.OPEI.org) for more safety tips and information.