

## Small Scale Tool Resources and Safe Operation Tips

**When you have a smaller piece of property or just prefer a smaller piece of equipment, here's some information for you.**

### Operate with Care

Before buying (or even operating) a skid steer, read up on safety information. One good resource is the University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension's publication, "Safe Use of Skid-steer Loaders on the Farm."

These are a few of the highlights: Never use a skid steer that isn't equipped with a rollover protective structure, falling object protective structure, side screens, and a seatbelt or operator restraint bars. These safety features have saved many lives; don't put yours at risk.

Never mount or dismount a skid steer with the lift arms up unless they're supported by a restraining device other than its hydraulic system. Safe dismounting means lowering the bucket, turning off the engine, putting the controls in neutral and, using both hands to support yourself, facing the machine as you step down.

Always stay completely inside the operator's compartment that includes your fingers, hands and feet.

Don't carry riders, ever! And clear the area of bystanders before operating a skid steer in tight places.

Carry the bucket low (the higher the load, the higher the center of gravity and more likely the skid steer is to tip), but don't let it drag the ground. Never swing the bucket over someone's head.

Avoid operating on steep slopes where skid steers are wont to tip over.

### Small-equipment Resources

Abbriata (Italy)  
[www.abbriata.com](http://www.abbriata.com)  
Sold through Masters Farm Supply  
Columbia, Ala.  
850-762-3221

Bobcat  
[www.bobcat.com](http://www.bobcat.com)  
800-743-4340

CAEB (Italy)  
[www.caebproductions.com](http://www.caebproductions.com)  
Sold through Earth Tools BSC  
Owenton, Ky.  
[www.earthtoolsbcs.com](http://www.earthtoolsbcs.com)  
502-484-3988

IHI Star Machinery Corporation (Japan)  
[www.ihistar.com/english/index.html](http://www.ihistar.com/english/index.html)  
Sold through Agriquip  
Lindale, Ga.  
[www.agriquip.com](http://www.agriquip.com)  
706-290-3941

John Deere  
[www.deere.com](http://www.deere.com)  
309-765-8000

Millcreek Manufacturing  
[www.millcreekspreaders.com](http://www.millcreekspreaders.com)

800-311-1323

Molon Machinery (Italy)  
[www.molonmachinery.com](http://www.molonmachinery.com)  
Sold through Earth Tools (see above)  
New Holland  
[www.newholland.com](http://www.newholland.com)  
888-365-6423

Newer Spreader  
[www.newerspreader.com](http://www.newerspreader.com)  
866-626-8732

Roth Manufacturing  
[www.loyal-roth.com](http://www.loyal-roth.com)  
800-472-2341