

RICE HYDRO, INC.  
MANUFACTURER'S OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS  
DIRTDAWG-9HON-T - POST HOLE DIGGER

**FOR WARRANTY REGISTRATION CALL: 1-800-245-4777**



**WARNING:** Operating, servicing, and maintaining this equipment can expose you to chemicals including engine exhaust, carbon monoxide and lead, which are known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm. To minimize exposure, avoid breathing exhaust, do not idle the engine except as necessary, operate and service your equipment in a well-ventilated area and wear gloves or wash your hands frequently when servicing your equipment. For more information go to: [www.p65warnings.ca.gov](http://www.p65warnings.ca.gov)

**WARNING & SAFETY:**

1. During operation - Do not wear loose fitting, or frayed clothing that may become entangled in rotating auger bit or other moving parts.
2. Always keep hands, arms, feet, and legs clear of rotating auger bit.
3. Do not operate machine on grade level greater than 15 degrees.
4. Engine should always be turned off when changing auger bits.
5. Remove auger bit before towing unit.
6. During extended use, some components may become hot, DO NOT TOUCH.
7. CAUTION BEFORE DIGGING - ALWAYS check with local utility companies to determine/verify location of existing cables, lines, or piping.  
Call 811 before you dig!

**ORIGINAL SETUP and HYDRAULIC OIL CHANGE:**

1. Your RICE Hydro dirt dawg comes completely assembled and ready to operate, all you need to do is add fluids and connect required size of auger bit.
2. Fill engine with gas and oil, as measured by engine dipstick.
3. **Filling system with hydraulic oil, for maximum performance and extended product life hydraulic oil #AW68 is recommended. First fill - open black breather cap and fill fluid to red dot on tank sight glass. Start unit and allow fluid to fill through system pump and hoses. Second fill - add more hydraulic fluid filling back to red dot on tank sight glass. For maintenance or to add/replace hydraulic fluid, a drain plug is located on inside bottom of tank for easy access.**  
**Unit will hold just under 5 gallons of fluid.**

**OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS DIGGING MODE:**

1. Loosen the locking handle and pull out digging handle to stop. DO NOT OVER EXTEND. Retighten locking handle. DO NOT OVERTIGHTEN.
2. Connect auger bit drive adapter to hydraulic motor shaft with a minimum 3/8" Grade 8 bolt and locknut.
3. Connect desired size auger bit or extension and secure with locking pin.
4. Assuring all fluids have been checked and refilled. Start engine.
5. For forward or digging rotation squeeze right side of control handle in, to reverse or for removal rotation squeeze left side of control handle.
6. Periodically lift auger up and out of hole to aid in dirt removal.

**GENERAL MAINTENANCE:**

1. Engine: Check all fluids before each use. SAE 10w30 is recommended. Oil level should be filled to meet dipstick measurement. For maintenance change oil within the 1<sup>st</sup> month, or after the first 20 hours of use, and every 6 months or 100 hours of use, thereafter.
2. Hydraulic Pump, Motor, and Valve are totally enclosed, NO MAINTENANCE.
3. Hydraulic filter: a 10 micron with spin on head, replacement numbers are Napa Gold #1453 or Frahm #P1655. Replace filter after the first 50 hours of use and every 250 hours, thereafter.
4. Hydraulic Fluid: replace every 6 months, filling instructions above.