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Are Robotic Lawn Mowers Safe?

By Kerry Clabaugh

You're standing in your front yard minding your own business when a robot with three razor sharp blades spinning at 5,800 rpm starts racing toward you. What do you do?

Is this some kind of nightmare? No, you're awake and this is really happening, so once again, what do you do?

The answer is nothing. It will just bounce off you and go another direction. Rather anti-climatic ending wasn't it? That is just the way the robotic lawn mower companies want it to be.

The greatest concern most people have about robotic lawn mowers is safety. 'Bots with Blades' just can't be safe. According to Ames Tiedeman, National Sales Manager for Systems Trading Corp., the US distributor for the Friendly Robotics Robomower, over 72,000 emergency room visits involved lawn mowers in 2005. ZERO involved robotic lawn mowers.

These mowers have so many safety features and shut-off triggers that it is amazing that they are actually functional.

The Friendly Robotics Robomower turns the blades off at 16 degrees, not even high enough to get a hand under. Even if a small hand could get under, the blades are far back and recessed into a chamber in the body. It would take creativity, not stupidity, to get to the blades while they are still turning.

Unlike push and riding lawn mower safety devices, robotic lawn mower features are not easily disabled. The tilt detection devices are soldered on to the main boards. Even the resistance against the blades and the ability of the software to stop them is measured in thousandths of seconds.

Since these robotic lawn mowers are designed to mulch there is no easy outlet for flying debris. Pebbles and pine cones do not get tossed very far and at low velocity.

Some robotic lawn mowers have sonar detection systems that if any moving objects get close they'll slow down and at another point stop the blade before even being touched. All have some sort of touch

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sensors that when they lightly bump into a stationary object that they change direction. So actually getting run over is unlikely.

Another big concern is pets getting chopped to bits, again, no reported accidents involving robotic lawn mowers. Dogs have a tendency to chase and bark, but not attack. A dog actually chewing up a robotic lawn mower is more feasible than a robotic lawn mower chewing up a dog.

Robotic lawn mowers move relatively slow, people and animals can easily move out of the way. Although it takes a lot longer to mow, if everyone used them there would be 72,000 fewer hospital visits this year.

This article was written to educate people that robotic mowers under intended circumstances are safe.

There has been a great deal of thought and engineering involved to make robotic lawn mowers safe for public use.

Kerry Clabaugh runs

<http://www.bamabots.com>

, a website dedicated to robotic lawnmowers sales and

education. Kerry is also interested in your experiences with robotic lawnmowers. He can be reached toll free (877) 383-6054

Automate Your Lawn Work

By Kerry Clabaugh

We think nothing of the computers in our cars. Who hasn't at least heard of the robotic floor sweepers? Yet for some reason Americans have not yet embraced the one of the greatest home labor saving devices, the robotic lawn mower.

Robotic lawn mowers can cut a yard very efficiently. The software is designed to take into account various types of grass and growing conditions.

The Lawnbott Evolution is particularly sensitive to how fast the grass is growing. Every time it mows it will sense how much resistance is against the blade to try and determine how fast the grass is growing. When it goes back to the charger it will calculate the next time it needs to come out to keep the grass at the optimal height. In other words it will come out more in May than in October.

The new Robomower RL1000 models now match the Lawnbott robotic mowers with rain sensors. So they will not attempt to mow in the rain. The LawnBott takes it a step further with a wet grass detection system, if the grass is too wet it goes back to the charger automatically.

Robotic mowers can be programmed to mow any time day or night. They can be told what days to

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come out or to stay in. So they can automatically mow during the week while the kids are in school or at night when everyone is in bed, or not mow on the weekends.

They can mow in different patterns so as to cut the grass in different directions. They don't leave the patterns in the yard like traditional mowers. The yard looks always crew-cut smooth.

Robotic mowers prefer to cut more often, they put much less stress on the grass and keep weeds from seeding. Robotic lawn mowers cut just the very tip of the grass so it falls to the ground as ready fertilizer. Virtually every lawn care website states how important that it is to reuse grass clippings.

Reducing water and fertilizer use is also important. Too much water and fertilizer can lead to too rapid of growth which will cause thatch.

Robotic lawn mowers use no gas or oil, they are very environmentally friendly. It is estimated that it costs only \$7.00 a year to mow the average lawn with a robotic lawn mower. Mother Nature can't help but smile at that!

The Robotic lawn mower is a proven technology, with over 5 years of in-home use world wide. There are many websites with all kinds of information and dealers who are very knowledgeable how robotic lawn mowers can benefit homeowners.

Kerry runs

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, a website dedicated to yard automation. Please email him at

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