



PRO CASTLES LIMITED OPERATION MANUAL

01745 797071 / 07468 561814

SALES@PROCASTLES.CO.UK

WWW.PROCASTLES.CO.UK



All castles manufactured by Pro Castles Ltd are done so to be in compliance with the latest BSEN 14960 standards.

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Choose your site

- The site must be big enough to accommodate the equipment, bearing in mind the open space needed at front and sides and the length of the blow-tube.
- The site must be level or have a slope of not more than 5 degrees in any direction.
- The inflatable must be sited well away from possible hazards such as overhead power lines or other obstacles with hazardous projections (e.g. fences and/or trees).
- The site must be cleared of debris and sharp objects on, or embedded in, the surface.

Check the wind

- The wind-speed must be no more than Force 5 on the Beaufort scale (maximum 24 mph/38 km/h).
- On the morning of the event and the night before, listen carefully to the weather forecast so that you have a good idea of what wind to expect.
- On the day and during the event, you should check the wind-speed continually using an anemometer (not a Smartphone).
- Position and roll out the inflatable correctly and ensure all 'siting rules' have been observed.
- Anchor the castle down temporarily. If ropes form part of the anchorage system, attach them to the anchor-points.
- The windward side of the inflatable needs to be anchored temporarily while it is inflating so drive industry standard 38cm long x minimum 16mm diameter anchor-stakes into the ground on the windward side and loosely tie on the windward side ropes.



Blowers

Blowers should be suitably guarded at inlet and outlet. The user should not be able to contact the blower unit. Blowers must stand 1.2m away or 2.5m away from the inflatable. Blowers should not be sited internally unless they are in a part of the structure not used for playing and out of possible contact by the user.

Inflate

- Ensure all electrical equipment is suitable for outdoor use.
- Check that you have the correct size and type of blower and attach it securely to the blow-tube.
- Switch on the blower and allow the inflatable to inflate fully.

Anchorage Impact

- Anchor the inflatable down permanently using every anchorage point on the inflatable
- The stakes should be driven into the ground slightly inclined away from the inflatable and the ropes or webbings should not be pulled too tight. The stakes should protrude no more than 25mm above the ground.
- Adjust the position of the blower – it needs to be moved as far away from the inflatable as the blow-tube will allow and then moved forward 50mm. It must stand at least 1.2m away from a walled inflatable or 2.5 m away from a flat-bed.



Internal Pressure

- Check the working pressure – you can check the pressure is sufficient inside the inflatable by using a manometer (at least 100mm wg / 1kPa).
- If you are using a petrol engine blower, regulate the speed of the engine so that the internal pressure is not too great.
- An electric blower does not need regulating but you must use an RCD circuit breaker.
- If you are using a petrol engine blower, take great care and ensure everyone is away when you re-fuel.

Do you need Mats at the Entrance?

- If the grass or earth is hard you will need landing mats on the ground all around the entrance/exit. If it is soft and not abrasive, it may not be necessary to use landing mats.
- Landing mats should cover the whole area around the entrance/exit of the inflatable. They should extend out 1.2m and should be no more than 2 inches thick. The mats should not move when the inflatable is in use.

Anchoring

- On hard standing, you will be unable to anchor with stakes driven into the ground.
- Each anchor-point must be attached to something (weight, sandbags or vehicles) which will withstand a force of 163kg.
- Use landing mats covering the whole of the area around the entrance/exit.
- Protect the base – if the hard standing is abrasive, you must use a groundsheet under the inflatable
- Keep the blower still and in position by standing it on a rubber mat.



Setting up Indoors

- Check the site is suitable - that there is enough floor-space on which the inflatable can stand with its blowtube fully extended and that there is plenty of space (3.5m) where the users get on and off.
- The height of the ceiling must be sufficient to allow the inflatable to inflate fully without touching and high enough to prevent users from touching the ceiling or any other fittings such as lights.
- Does the inflatable need anchoring? Even indoors the inflatable could move across the floor and it could overturn.
- Sideways movement can be counteracted by placing rubber mats under the inflatable.

Routine Inspection

1. The site is level enough? No overhead wires/trees? Plenty of clear space around the inflatable?
2. All of the anchorages are in place and secure?
3. Landing mats, if needed, are in position?
4. No significant rips or holes in the fabric and seams?
5. Internal pressure sufficient?
6. Correct blower?
7. Firmly connected to the blow-tube?
8. Blow-tube at its furthest extent; less than 50mm?
9. No exposed electrical parts or wires?
10. No damage to switches, plugs, sockets?
11. Cables routed out of harm's way?
12. Mesh guards intact on the blower?
13. Petrol cap on?
14. Petrol can in its secure store hidden from view?
15. All electrical equipment is suitable for outdoor use?
16. Electrical reels fully unwound?



Operating

Who's Who?

Operators and attendants need to be identifiable and the operator needs to carry a visible whistle if supervising the inflatable during use at a private home or event.

Establish a System of use

- If you are managing and supervising the inflatable, first establish the maximum number and maximum height of users which is prominently shown on the inflatable so that everyone can see it.
- Work out a system whereby the users can be "put on" in a controlled and safe manner and use a timer that everyone can see and hear.
- Brief the hirer if you are leaving the inflatable on the system of use and how to contact you in an emergency.
- Keep the 3.5m in front of the entrance/exit clear of coats, shoes, bags, money glasses etc.
- Separate users into groups of approximately the same height, up to the maximum height to go on together.
- After a couple of hours, it's policy to close the castle for 5 minutes:
 1. to take a breather
 2. to top up the petrol in the blower
 3. to check that the anchorages are still secure
 4. to empty money out of the cash-bag which is growing heavy
 5. to check that everything else is still good – anchorages, fence, etc.



Handover to the Hirer

If you are leaving the private event, you must brief the person who has hired the inflatable and complete a thorough handover.

This must include your contact details in case of an emergency and also run through the following points with them before leaving. This is very important.

1. Exercise constant supervision – Our research found that 73 per cent of adults in the UK don't know that they are fully responsible for users on the inflatable after you leave. It is very important for the safety of the users that a responsible adult (16 Years of age or over and able to exercise some authority over the users) supervises the use of the inflatable all of the time it is in use.
2. The hirer must admit users in a controlled and safe manner
3. The hirer must also restrict the maximum height of user and the maximum number of users.
4. The hirer must separate users into groups of approximately the same height
5. Ensure the users remove shoes, necklaces, gum, bags, purses and anything hard or sharp
6. The hirer must also ask spectacle wearers if they can manage without - if not, warn the other users
7. The hirer should ensure the surrounding area is kept clear
8. The hirer must stop users from playing on the step or playing too roughly
9. The hirer must tell users not to do somersaults or climb or hang on the containing walls.
10. The hirer must contact you in the event of an accident or injury.



Checklist in the Event of a Serious Accident

1. Evacuate users from the inflatable.
2. Make the injured person comfortable.
3. Find the injured person's relative/parent/friend.
4. Send for St. John's Ambulance, Red Cross, doctor or competent person to give first aid.
5. Write down the circumstances of the accident. Note the date, time, number of users.
6. Take names and addresses of witnesses.
7. Note the names of the operator and attendants on duty at the time.
8. Notify the Controller that an accident has occurred.

Putting the Equipment Away

1. Before deflating the castle, all users and onlookers must be out of the way.
2. Follow the instructions for deflating the castle and rolling it up into a manageable shape.
3. Leave the anchorages connected until the castle is flat but when you disconnect them do not leave stakes in the ground because a) you will lose them and b) you will trip over them.
4. If you have been using a petrol blower, make sure the petrol tap is turned off and the exhaust has cooled down before storing it.
5. Ensure the castle is thoroughly cleaned with COVID approved cleaning products before its next use.



A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF A WELL CARRIED OUT SETUP



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