

Tool Maintenance Or Be Good To Your Tools And They'll Be Good To You

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All tools need care –

Three guidelines:

- Storage
- Cleanliness
- Sharpness



Simple Basics:

**Proper storage will
greatly lengthen
the life of your
TOOLS.**



**Racks are great for storage
but anything that gets them up
and away from the floor is best.**

**Drill hanging holes and use
nails, pegs to hang
The tools.**



Care of tool handles:

**Wash, then clean handles with
a wet cloth. Dry.**

**Apply linseed oil or
paste wax to condition.**

**Rough, splintery handles:
Sand handles with
sandpaper. Apply
linseed oil to
maintain smoothness.**



Clean blades and tines:

- **Remove all dirt at the end of each use.**
- **Hose them down
or
use a bucket of sand
to which oil has
been added.**



- **Spray or wipe down with a light oil or spray like WD40**

(cooking oils work well and dissipate quickly. They do not cause problems with your soil.)



- **Rust should be removed.**
By sanding
or wire brush



- **For severe coatings of rust**
Use wire brush
attachment on drill



Sharpening makes the tool work better and can be safer to use.


Different tools require different sharpening methods:

- Whetstone**
 - File (of appropriate size)**
 - Special sharpening device**
 - Bench grinder**
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Whetstone:

- Use on hand clippers, cutters, and pruners



- **Secure cutters in a vise if available.**
 - **Working at a 45-degree angle, start at the outer edge and move toward the center**
 - **Move stone in one direction only, on one side of the blade.**
 - **When the edge is sharp, gently clean any burrs off the flat side of the blade.**
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Hoes and shovels are sharpened by using a mill file.

- Use the same 45 degree angle
- File in one direction, from one edge to the other.
- File (or sand) away any burrs from the backside of the blade.

Gloves are recommended for Safety!



For hedge clippers and shears:

- **Take the blades apart**
- **Follow the same directions as those given for shovels/hoes.**

(Work at 45 degrees outside to the inside of the blade at angle.)

- **Sand or file away burrs from the backside.**



**Hardened Steel edge:
Corona or similar sharpener works
wonders on small cutters and hand
tools.**



AccuSharp



Mower blades:

Using the tool rest platform on a bench grinder, grind the edge of the mower blade, moving the blade as you sharpen.

- Bench grinders remove a lot of metal quickly... be cautious.

WEAR GLOVES!!



Safety is very important when working with sharp edged tools:

- Always use eye protection
- Always use gloves
- Don't eat or drink in the shop
- Be careful with sharp objects near electric cords.

You are far less likely to hurt yourself when using a sharpened tool correctly, rather than struggling with a dull one.

