



PREPARE YOUR TOOLS FOR WINTER

HOW TO MAKE SURE YOUR GARDEN TOOLS ARE READY FOR THE COLD TIME OF YEAR

INSPECTION TIME

Power tools, such as chain saws, lawn trimmers and hedge trimmers, should be inspected one last time at the end of the season before they go into hibernation for several months in the winter. In general, you have to take good care of your helpful garden tools if you want to be able to use them again right away when spring comes.

THOROUGH CLEANING

You've trimmed your hedges and your lawn, cleaned up corners and hard-to-reach places and chopped your wood. All of this leaves traces of plants and wood on your tools, so a thorough cleaning is the most important thing to do in autumn. You can use a wooden or plastic spatula to remove grass residue that is stuck inside the housing of your lawn mower. Also remove any grass from the cooling fins and exhaust area. Clean the lawn mower with a brush and water. A garden hose can additionally help with the cleaning. But be careful: don't use a powerful jet of water on the bearings, gaskets or engine parts, as this could damage the machine. To remove dirt from the underside of the housing, tilt the mower backward so that the spark plug points upward. If you tilt the machine sideways, oil could enter the air filter or the exhaust, which could cause damage.

Now on to your chain saw. Remove the saw chain and the guide bar, and clean sawdust and wood shavings out of the housing. You should also clean the knives of your mower and hedge trimmers, as well as the cutting tools of your brushcutter and the chain of your chain saw. Resin solvent sprays get rid of stubborn dirt reliably. With gas-powered tools, pay particular attention to cleaning the cylinder fins and the air filter. You can buy a special cleanser for the air filter.



CARING FOR TOOLS WITH MACHINE OIL

After cleaning, the springs and joints require a few drops of machine oil. Use a special lubricant on the gears of your hedge trimmer, brushcutter and clearing saw. You can either do this yourself or bring your tools to a certified STIHL Dealer for maintenance. The experts there also check tools for wear and tear and possible damage.

THE FINISHING TOUCH

A check of cutting tools before the winter break is an ideal way to make sure full cutting performance is available at the start of the new season. These tools may also need to be sharpened. We recommend going to an expert for this. Your STIHL Dealer will take a close, critical look at the hedge trimmer and lawn mower knives, metal cutting blades and saw chains. If a grass cutting blade shows signs of wear and tear, such as tiny cracks, it must be replaced for safety reasons. However, an expert re-sharpening is usually all your tools need to work perfectly when spring arrives.

Carbide-tipped saw chains, which are harder-wearing, only usually need to be sharpened once a season.

EMPTY TANK

Before your tools take a break during winter, you should empty the tanks of your gas-powered tools in a well-ventilated place. The volatile matter in fuel evaporates in the tank, so it will lose its combustibility over a longer period of time. As a result, you may have problems starting your tools up in the spring. To empty the gas completely, pour the contents of the tank out of the filling hatch into a well-insulated canister. Then start up the engine and let it idle until it comes to a stop of its own accord. This ensures that the tank and all the suction hoses are completely empty and that the carburetor diaphragms do not stick together. On the other hand, you should fill up your chain saw's chain-oil tank as full as possible, especially if you use organic lubricants. It is also important to check the oil level of your lawn mower before the winter break. This is because the machine must be in full working order at all times. If necessary, change the oil or go to a servicing STIHL Dealer for support. In any case, remember to follow the owner's manual and use the recommended high-quality oil.

30% CHARGE

Remove the battery from battery-powered tools before you store them in order to prevent them from starting up accidentally. If you do not use the batteries for a long time, we recommend loading them with a 30% charge and then loading them up completely before the next time you use them.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT PLACE TO STORE YOUR TOOLS

The best place to store your tools for the winter is in a dust-free, dry and frost-free place. Store tools in their normal position. Remember to store lawn mowers with a starter battery in a frost-free environment! And even though nothing can actually happen without fuel, a battery or an electrical outlet, it is still important to store tools out of the reach of children, especially because of the sharp knives and blades.

