

I'm not a bot



Reel lawn mowers are enjoying a resurgence in popularity. As a manual mower, they cut grass as you push it along. Yet just like their rotary blade cousins, the blades on a reel mower can dull, or need a basic adjustment. Fortunately, there are a few different ways to sharpen reel mower blades with a file or use a sharpening compound to get the best possible cut performance. A reel mower has a set of curved blades that turn in concert with the wheels. When you push it forward the blades spin and contact the grass along with a special Cutting Bar. This essentially snips each individual blade grass. Some reel mowers are set up to then carry the cut blades into a small collection bin. This is a nice feature, as it removed the spent blades before they can turn into thatch, which can gradually start to choke off the layers of your turf. Thatch can be a major factor if you are cutting the grass infrequently, or your lawn is overgrown. Thatch can also build up in dry conditions where there simply isnt enough moisture to allow it to decompose. However, small grass clippings and tiny pieces of thatch tend to break down in wet conditions. This can even help to feed and fertilize the upper layers of your turf in the middle of the growing season. In a situation like this, cutting your grass frequently can help feed your lawn!

Whether or not you need to use a collection bin can vary depending on the recent weather and how long your grass is. If your reel mower doesnt have a collection bin, and the spent grass clippings are longer than half an inch, you should strongly consider raking them up after you mow. Yes, its true that a reel mower does take a little more effort to operate. It also takes a little longer to cut the same patch of grass than a conventional rotary lawnmower. Still, when its properly maintained, the reel mower isnt that much more work than say pushing a heavy gas lawnmower without a self-propulsion system. Pin The sharpness of the blades can affect a reel mower in a variety of ways. Since the wheels and the blades essentially work in tandem, when the blades start to dull it will make it more difficult to essentially push the mower along. At the same time, dull blades are also more likely to push over blades of grass rather than cut them. Significantly dull or rusty reel mower blades can also damage grass making your lawn more prone to turf disease, pests, and potential fungus issues. Reel mower blades are designed to last longer and stay sharper than rotary mower blades. Still, as time goes on they will inevitably start to dull, and perhaps develop bits of rust. This is even more likely to be an issue if you frequently let your lawn grow longer than 4-inches or if you cut the grass when its still a little damp. Some rotary lawnmower blades can be sharpened with a bench grinder or electric handheld power grinder. These are the wrong tools for the job when it comes to sharpening a reel mower blade. In my opinion, a mill file is an ideal tool for sharpening reel mower blades. Some hardware stores will even carry special mill files that are specifically designed for sharpening reel mower blades. But to be honest, a simple handheld mill file is all you need. If your looking for one, we recommend this grinding mill file. Here are 5 steps you can follow to sharpen the blades on a reel mower using a file. Pin This calls for wedging a broom handle or a hardwood dowel into the blade assembly to keep it from accidentally turning while your fingers are in the Danger Zone. Laying the mower on a large work surface and chocking the wheels with a doorstep or shims would also be a good idea. Dont think that just because the blades are too dull to cut grass that they cant give you a nasty finger wound! You can use a stiff wire brush or some coarse sandpaper to carefully remove any debris from the blades and surrounding surfaces. If you use sandpaper, make sure it is rated for metal. To do this you carefully press the toothed end of the metal mill file on the beveled edge of the first blade. The goal is to angle the plane of the file to perfectly match the beveled edge of the blade. You arent trying to create a new angle. You are just trying to remove a millimeter or two of dull metal to replicate the original sharp beveled edge. This usually takes three to five passes, depending on how rusty or dull the blade edge has become. Once you have filed away as much as you can on the first blade, you will need to remove the broom handle and carefully rotate the cylinder to fully access the next blade. Then re-secure the blades and repeat the sharpening process. When you are done sharpening all the blades, you should light spray all moving parts with a penetrating lubricant like WD40. You should also coat the blades with penetrating lubricant, or a little bit of linseed oil soaked into a clean paper towel. There are some manufacturers who make a special type ofsharpening kit which allows you to sharpen reel mower blades using a process known as Back Lapping. It is essentially a kit that comes with a handle and a modest amount of a gritty substance called a sharpening compound. To sharpen reel mower blades, you basically need to apply it to the blades with a chip brush, and it will gradually sharpen the beveled edges as they scrape against each other. Then you use the handle or Lapping Tool to turn the reel mowers driving gear. You move the blades in one direction for three or four passes. Then you turn the blades in the other direction. Its honestly a little more elbow grease than the file method and it takes longer. In my experience, it also doesnt sharpen the blades as well. The main benefit of this back strapping and sharpening compound method is that you dont have to worry about matching the bevel angle of the blades. Improper or maladjusted blade alignment can hinder the efficiency of your reel mower blades. This also tends to leave excess grass behind as well as accelerate the dulling process. In fact, some people think that their blades are dull, only to find that they simply need to be adjusted. Fortunately, with a little bit of mechanical skill, its pretty simple to adjust your reel mower for optimum performance. First, you need to place your reel mower on a tabletop or workbench and check its wheels from moving. At that point, you can use your hand to slowly spin the reel to see the level of imbalance. If you hear a scraping sound, you will likely need to use a bed knife to adjust the blades. If you notice the reel spins too easily, or it seems loose, you need to adjust the blades to be closer to the horizontal cutting bar. When you feel that you have the blades dialed in where you want them to be, you can take a flathead screwdriver to adjust the screw slots on the side of the reel. In general, if you need to bring the blades closer, you will tighten the screws. If the blades need to be moved away, you will need to loosen the screws. Try to make these adjustments in small increments. After each one makes another soft, slow spin to see how much more adjustment might need to be made. You shouldnt let the fact that a reel mower is manual and seemingly simple, lull you into thinking that it doesnt need maintenance. Just like any tool or piece of machinery, a little bit of routine maintenance will go a long way towards making the most out of your investment. Learn more about how to sharpen blades for hedge trimmers or grass shears that you may have. When you really put it all into perspective, sharpening the blades, making minor adjustments, and spraying a little penetrating lubricant on the moving parts is cheaper than maintaining a self-powered lawnmower! From his childhood obsession with gardening to the decade he spent operating a hobby farm, Eric has developed over four decades of experience in just-sufficiency. Not only does he include the organic elements of growing and tending plants, but it also includes a wealth of experience in lawn care, landscaping, and gardening equipment.The Scotts Elite Push Reel Mower uses five spinning helical blades to cut grass with the precision of a motorized mower, but without the associated noise or exhaust. The blades of the Scotts Elite and other reel mowers rarely require sharpening, but can become dull after several years of use. Dull blades result in jagged or torn grass that is more susceptible to disease, so sharpening is necessary. Rather than spending your money on reel mower sharpening kits, you can sharpen the blades with a coarse metal file, which offers greater control of the process.Article continues below this adThe satisfying whir of a reel mower across a lush lawn is a testament to the power of a well-maintained tool. But even the most well-built reel mower needs regular attention, particularly to its blades. A dull blade will leave your grass ragged, uneven, and prone to disease. This article will walk you through the process of sharpening a reel lawn mower blade, equipping you with the knowledge and confidence to keep your lawn looking its best.OverviewSharpening a reel mower blade is a relatively simple process that can be done at home with a few basic tools. This guide will cover everything from choosing the right tools to understanding the sharpening process itself.Preparing for the TaskBefore you begin sharpening your reel mower blade, its crucial to gather the right tools and ensure you have a safe working environment. 1. Essential Tools:A sharpening stone: Choose a stone with a coarse grit side for initial sharpening and a fine grit side for honing the edge.A flat surface: Youll need a stable surface to work on, like a workbench or a sturdy table.A vise: This will hold your blade securely in place while you sharpen. 2. Safety Gear:Wear safety glasses and gloves to protect your eyes and hands from flying sparks. You may also want to wear a dust mask if you have a sensitive respiratory system. 3. Safety Precautions:If you have a self-propelled reel mower, youll need to maintain its sharpness to keep your lawn looking its best. 1. Regular Sharpening:Sharpness will gradually wear down over time, so its best to sharpen your blades regularly. Most manufacturers recommend sharpening after every 10-15 hours of use. 2. Avoid Striking Obstacles:Avoid rocks or other hard objects that can dull your blade quickly. Use caution when mowing over uneven terrain. 3. Clean the Blade:Clean your blade regularly to remove grass clippings and other debris, which can interfere with its performance.ConclusionSharpening a reel mower blade is a crucial part of maintaining your lawn mowing equipment and achieving a beautifully manicured lawn. By following this comprehensive guide, you can confidently handle this essential task, ensuring that your reel mower performs at its peak. Remember, a sharp blade is essential for a clean cut and healthy lawn. With a little effort, you can enjoy the smooth, efficient operation of a well-maintained reel mower for years to come.FAQHow often should I sharpen my reel mower blade?Sharpening frequency depends on several factors, including the type of grass, how often you mow, and the quality of your blade. A general guideline is to sharpen the blade every 10-15 hours of use, or when you notice the cut is getting uneven or the grass is being torn instead of cut cleanly.You can also check for signs of dullness by running your finger along the edge of the blade. If you feel any burrs or rough spots, its time for sharpening.What tools do I need to sharpen a reel mower blade?Youll need a few essential tools for the job: a sharpening steel, a flat file, a honing guide (optional), and a wrench to remove the blade. The sharpening steel is used to maintain the primary edge of the blade, while the flat file is used to remove any burrs or imperfections. A honing guide ensures that the blade is sharpened at the correct angle.If you dont have a honing guide, you can use a piece of wood or metal with a flat surface to help you maintain a consistent angle while sharpening.Can I use a bench grinder to sharpen my reel mower blade?While a bench grinder can be used to sharpen other tools, its not recommended for reel mower blades. The high speed and heat generated by a bench grinder can easily damage the blade, making it brittle and prone to breaking. Instead, use a sharpening steel and a flat file for a more controlled and precise sharpening process. These tools allow you to maintain the blades integrity and ensure a long lifespan.What is the correct sharpening angle for a reel mower blade?The ideal sharpening angle for a reel mower blade is around 30 degrees. However, the specific angle can vary depending on the manufacturers recommendations and the type of blade you have.You can find this information in your mowers manual or by contacting the manufacturer directly. Using the correct sharpening angle ensures a clean, efficient cut and prevents premature wear and tear on the blade.How do I know when my reel mower blade is sharp enough?There are a few ways to check if your blade is sharp enough. First, you can hold the blade up to the light and look for a reflection. If the blade is sharp, it should reflect light evenly.Secondly, you can run your finger (carefully!) along the edge of the blade. If you feel a smooth, sharp edge, your good to go. If you feel any burrs or roughness, you need to continue sharpening.What should I do if my reel mower blade is damaged?If your blade is damaged, you may need to replace it instead of trying to sharpen it. Look for signs of damage such as chips, cracks, or significant wear.If the blade is cracked or chipped, its unsafe to use and should be replaced immediately. A damaged blade can cause uneven cuts, damage your lawn, and even break during use.How do I clean and maintain my reel mower blade?After each use, its important to clean your reel mower blade to remove any grass clippings or debris. Use a wire brush or a cleaning cloth to remove any buildup.You can also apply a light oil to the blade after cleaning to prevent rust and corrosion. Regular cleaning and maintenance will extend the life of your blade and ensure a smooth, efficient mowing experience. As a seasoned gardener with extensive experience in lawn maintenance, I understand the critical role a sharp reel mower plays in achieving a healthy and aesthetically pleasing lawn. The quality of your grass cut and overall health hinges on the condition of your mower blades. When these blades become dull, it not only hampers your mowing efficiency but can also damage your lawn. In this guide, I will provide you with a concise, expert-led walkthrough on how to sharpen reel mower blades effectively. My aim is to equip you with the knowledge and confidence needed to maintain your mowers performance, ensuring your lawn remains a vibrant, inviting space. Trust in my expertise, and lets enhance the vitality of your greenspace together. Sharpening reel mower blades effectively involves removing wheels for gear access, adjusting blade height, and using grinding compounds and tools like files or whetstones. Regular maintenance, including cleaning, lubricating, and aligning wheels and gears, is crucial for optimal blade sharpening and mower performance. According to the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute, a well-maintained lawn mower with sharp blades can improve grass cutting efficiency by up to 20%. In my experience, investing time in sharpening reel mower blades pays off with a healthier, more visually appealing lawn.Getting Started with Sharpening Your Reel Mower: Begin by gathering all necessary tools for the sharpening process, including wrenches, pliers, and safety gear like gloves. Removing Wheels: Carefully remove the wheels of the mower to access the blades. Use the appropriate tools and remember to keep track of all parts. Gears Removal and Maintenance: Detach the gears carefully after removing the wheels. Inspect them for any signs of wear or damage, and lubricate them if necessary. Swapping Gears: Replace old gears with new ones, ensuring they are aligned correctly and properly lubricated for smooth operation. Reattaching the Wheels: After gear maintenance, reattach the wheels. Make sure they are clean, well-lubricated, and aligned properly for effective mowing. Blade Adjustment: Adjust the height and alignment of the blades as per the mowers manual to ensure they are set correctly for sharpening. Sharpening Process: Apply a suitable grinding compound to the blades. Use either a hand file, whetstone, or bench grinding for sharpening, depending on your preference and the tools available. Backward Mowing Technique: Engage in backward mowing, a preparatory step where you manually rotate the blades backward, setting them up for effective sharpening. Post-Sharpening Inspection: After sharpening, inspect the blades for a consistent edge and check for any missed areas of rust or damage. Cleaning and Final Checks: Thoroughly clean off any grit and debris from the blades. Inspect and treat for rust, and apply lubrication to protect the blades. Final Wheel Attachment and Testing: Reattach the wheels, ensuring they are correctly aligned and secured. Conduct a test run to ensure the mower operates smoothly with the sharpened blades. Related Articles: Before I can start my reel mower sharpening, Ive got to prep the mower for the task. To start sharpening your reel mower, youll first need to remove the wheels to access the blades. Its crucial to adhere to safety precautions before you dive in. I make sure to wear gloves and ensure the mower is stable. Heres what I keep in mind: Tool Selection Use the right wrench for removing wheel nuts. Have pliers on hand for any stubborn parts. Wheel Maintenance Steps Keep track of all removed parts for easy reassembly. Clean and inspect the wheels; its a good chance for some wheel maintenance. Apply axle lubrication before reattaching to ensure smooth operation. I also check the wheel alignment as I reattach them, ensuring my mower will run straight and true. Having removed the wheels, I now focus on carefully detaching the gears, which is essential for accessing the reel blades. Prioritizing safety precautions, I make sure to wear gloves to prevent any injuries. Selecting the right tools is crucial: I use a wrench or pliers that perfectly fit the gear nuts to avoid stripping them. Slowly, I loosen the gears, paying attention to their alignment. An alignment check is vital to reassemble the mower correctly later on. Before setting the gears aside, I inspect them for signs of wear and determine if gear lubrication is needed. Properly lubricated gears ensure a smoother operation when I put everything back together. This meticulous gear removal and inspection set the stage for a successful sharpening job. With the gears now removed, Im ready to initiate the sharpening process by swapping in the new gears designed for precise blade contact. Its a crucial step. I know that proper gear lubrication is key to smooth operation and longevity. Heres my game plan: Gear Inspection and MaintenanceInspecting the gears for wear and damage before installation. Determining maintenance frequency based on usage and performance. Replacement Parts InstallationSelecting quality replacement parts that match my mowers specifications. Applying gear lubrication to facilitate seamless movement between parts. Im aware that skipping these steps could lead to a subpar sharpening job or even damage the mower. So, Im as careful with these gears as a jeweler with gems. Before I tackle the blade sharpening itself, I must reattach the wheels to ensure the mowers stability and proper alignment during the process. First, I check the tires for any signs of wear or damage. If theyre in good shape, I proceed to clean the wheels thoroughly, removing any built-up grass or debris. Once clean, I lubricate the axle to guarantee smooth wheel rotation, which is crucial for even blade sharpening. With the wheels ready, I focus on the wheel alignment, making sure each one is positioned correctly for optimal performance. I then secure them onto the mower using the locking mechanism, ensuring theyre tightly fastened and wont slip during operation. Now, Im all set to start sharpening the blades with the mower steady and aligned. To ensure the precise sharpening of your push reel mowers blades, its crucial to first adjust the blade height to the correct position. Proper height adjustment is key to maintaining mower balance and the cutting angle, directly impacting the sharpening process effectiveness. Heres how I go about it: Blade Alignment & Height AdjustmentCheck the manual for the optimal height for your mower model. Adjust each blade to this height, ensuring uniformity. Mower Balance & Sharpness TestingMake sure the mower sits level on a flat surface. Perform a paper test or a visual inspection to verify the initial sharpness before starting. I find that taking these steps helps me set up for a successful sharpening session, leading to a well-maintained lawn. Also Read: How to Change Blades on Husqvarna Zero Turn Mower Before we tackle the nitty-gritty of sharpening your push reel mower, lets discuss how to properly apply grinding compound. This gritty substance is key to honing those blades without the need for professional equipment. Ill guide you through the simple steps to ensure youre off to a great start. Applying a generous amount of grinding compound to the blades ensures that hand sharpening with a file or whetstone is both effective and efficient. Blade Inspection: Check each blade for damage before sharpening Choose the right file for your blade type Safety & Maintenance: Wear gloves for safety Maintain sharpening angle consistency Sharpen regularly based on usage Mowing on to bench grinding, the first step in sharpening your push reel mower is to apply the right amount of grinding compound to the blades. Im meticulous about grinding safety, always ensuring wheel selection matches my mowers needs. Maintaining angle precision is key, so I use jigs. I never skimp on coolant usage; it preserves the blades. Lastly, effective dust management keeps my workspace clean and breathable. Initiating the sharpening process for your push reel mower begins with a technique known as backward mowing. This doesnt mean mowing in reverse, but rather a type of mow to prep the blades for sharpening. Heres how I go about it: Backward technique Engage the mower in a stationary position Rotate the blades backward by hand Using this approach not only sets the stage for effective sharpening but also maintains lawn health by preventing accidental cutting. Its essential to adhere to safety precautions, like wearing gloves and ensuring the mower is secure. For efficiency tips: Mowing patterns Clear the lawn of debris Check for block movement uniformity Having completed the backward mowing technique, its crucial to recognize the signs of properly sharpened blades before diving into the sharpening process. After Ive finished sharpening, I always do a thorough blade inspection. I look for a consistent, polished edge along each blade, which indicates a job well done. I also check for any rust that may have been missed during rust removal. Its important not to overlook this step, as rust can hinder the mowers performance. I adhere to a sharpening frequency that aligns with the mowers use. Regular maintenance ensures Im not met with unexpected wear or damage. Safety measures are a top priority during this entire process. Before jumping into the sharpening process, its essential to clean off any grit from the reel mower blades to prevent damage and ensure the sharpening is effective. I always start with a thorough blade inspection to spot any debris or rust that may hinder my progress. Steps for cleaning grit off: Blade inspection: Look for nicks and lodged debris. Rust treatment: Apply rust remover if necessary. Cleaning solutions: Use a soapy water mixture or specialized blade cleaner. Drying methods: Wipe blades dry with a clean cloth or let air dry. Lubrication: Apply a light oil to the blades to protect against rust. Lightly oil the wheels to protect against damaging the wheel or axle. Taking safety precautions, I wear gloves to protect my hands from any sharp edges or grease. Once the wheel is off, I check the axle for wear or damage. I look out for any signs of rust, which can be a big problem. If I spot any, Ill treat it with rust prevention measures. Its also the perfect time for wheel lubrication, ensuring smooth operation once I reassemble the mower. Now that the second wheel is removed and the axle inspected, Ill focus on the gears, swapping them out to ensure the sharpening process aligns the blades correctly. Its crucial to address any potential alignment issues that could affect the quality of the sharpening. Heres how to get started: Gear Lubrication and Wear InspectionGear Lubrication: Apply lubricant to ensure smooth gear operation. Wear Inspection: Check for signs of wear that could indicate the need for replacement. Maintenance and AdjustmentMaintenance Schedule: Adhere to a regular schedule to prevent future issues. Torque Settings: Use the correct torque settings when tightening the gears to avoid over-tightening and misalignment. Sticking to this method not only prepares my mower for sharpening but also extends its lifespan. Reattaching the wheels marks the final step before I begin the meticulous task of sharpening the reel mower blades. First, I ensure wheel lubrication isnt overlookedits crucial for smooth operation. I dab just the right amount of grease on the axles, not too much to attract dirt. During the axle inspection, I check for any signs of wear or damage. Its key to catch any issues now to prevent future mishaps. Next, I carefully align the wheels, making sure theyre set just right. An alignment check guarantees theyll roll straight, which is essential for an even cut. Once theyre securely on, I perform a final testing, pushing the mower a few feet to ensure everything is in place. Of course, I dont forget the safety precautions: keeping my fingers clear of the blades when theyre in motion. How can you tell when your reel mowers blades have been sharpened? Its beneficial to consider the type of grass youre cutting, as different grass types may require different sharpening angles. For softer prairie grass, a smaller bevel angle, say around 30 degrees or less, is often recommended. This angle ensures a cleaner cut, which is gentle on the grass and facilitates quicker healing. Conversely, tougher or thicker grass types might need a slightly steeper angle for effective cutting. Adjusting the sharpening angle to match the grass type can significantly enhance your mowers efficiency and the overall health of your lawn. Regular maintenance of reel mower blades can be efficiently managed using a honing rod. To use a honing rod, hold the blade at a 45-degree angle, and gently run the rod along each side of the blade. This method is particularly useful for keeping the blades sharp between more intensive sharpening sessions. Its important to be cautious not to remove too much material from the blade edges, as this could lead to injuries or damage to the mower. Consistent use of a honing rod can prolong the life of your blades and ensure a consistently clean cut. The bedknife is a crucial component of the reel mower, playing a significant role in the cutting process. Maintaining and sharpening the bedknife involves several steps. First, remove the bedknife and use a scraper to clean off any rust, scale, and corrosion. When reinstalling the bedknife, its important to lightly oil its surface and use new screws with anti-seize lubricant applied to the threads. Avoid overtightening the screws and follow the manufacturers instructions for the correct torque. Regular maintenance of the bedknife, including proper cleaning and lubrication, ensures optimal cutting performance and longevity of your reel mower. Sandpaper can be an effective tool for sharpening reel mower blades, especially for smoothing out minor nicks and rough spots. To sharpen blades with sandpaper, first remove the blade from the mower. Lay the sandpaper on a flat surface and place the blade on top. Carefully sand off any rough patches on one side of the blade, ensuring you maintain an even and smooth surface. After smoothing one side, flip the blade and repeat the process on the other side. This method is particularly useful for fine-tuning the blades sharpness and can be a practical and accessible option for those who may not have specialized sharpening tools. Its important to handle the blades carefully during this process to avoid any injuries. The cost of professional sharpening services for reel mowers can vary, depending on the complexity of the blades and the expertise of the sharper. On average, a basic sharpening session for a standard reel mower might cost around \$30. However, for reel mowers with more complex blade systems, like those found in riding lawnmowers, the price could increase, possibly reaching upwards of \$60. For electric reel mowers, particularly if the blades is damaged or rusty, professional sharpening could cost between \$50 and \$100. These figures provide a general guideline, but its always best to check with local services for precise quotes. In my journey through the meticulous world of maintaining and sharpening reel mower blades, Ive learned that the effort is absolutely worth it. My personal experience has shown me that a well-maintained blade is not just a tool but a key to a lush, vibrant lawn. Its been a transformative process, shifting from tedious lawn care to enjoying the serene beauty of a well-manicured lawn. Each turn of the blades, each adjustment, and careful sharpening, have taught me the importance of attention to detail. Whether its selecting the right angle for different grass types, using a honing rod for regular maintenance, or even the simple act of sanding the blades for that perfect finish. As I stand back and look at the fruits of my labor, a green expanse thats become the envy of my neighborhood, I can confidently say that the journey of sharpening and maintaining my reel mower has been as rewarding as the result. Your grass, much like mine, will thrive with this care, reflecting the pride and effort put into every blades sharpen. Ethan Dixonette is an accomplished lawn maintenance professional with over a decade of experience in the field. Known for his adept skills in small engine repair and problem-solving, Ethan has built a reputation for his meticulous attention to detail and his ability to fix nearly any mechanical issue. With a knack for transforming outdoor spaces and a genuine pride in his work, Ethans expertise goes beyond routine carehes is a true craftsman in the world of lawn care and maintenance. His written works reflect his passion and offer a wealth of knowledge to both novices and fellow experts alike. Yes, I can sharpen the blades without removing them by following manual methods, ensuring safety precautions, and conducting blade inspection and adjustment checks. Regular sharpening frequency keeps my mower in top condition. Ill adjust lapping frequency based on the blades dullness. Optimal intervals ensure thorough sharpening duration. I choose compound types carefully for effective blade maintenance, applying more if the blades arent sharpening properly. Over-sharpening can cause blade brittleness and metal fatigue, compromising cutting precision. Ill need to sharpen more often, increasing maintenance frequency, so Im careful with my sharpening techniques to avoid these risks. Yes, I can over-sharpen my blades, leading to brittleness and reduced edge durability. It disrupts the maintenance balance, affects cutting precision, and demands increased sharpening frequency, which Id rather avoid. Using a drill for precision tasks can risk blade integrity due to heat generation. If Im not careful with alignment and drill bit selection, it might indeed affect my mowers performance. Reel mowers quietly deliver excellent service, but do occasionally need a good sharpening. This post will show how easy it is to sharpen one of these useful and environmentally friendly machines. Tools: Sharpening kit, screwdriver, brush; optional: drill and socket.Materials: sharpening compound, solvent such as lacquer thinner.Parts: noneCost of parts:NATime: 30 minutes 1) Test the mower's cutting action with a piece of paper. If it fails to cleanly cut the sheet, it needs sharpening.2) Lower the cutting reel by loosening the inner bolt just a bit (counter-clockwise) and tightening the outer an identical amount. This will result in contact between the reel and the cutting edge needed during sharpening. Repeat on the other side, counter-clockwise on inner; clockwise on outer adjustment screw3) Tip the mower so that it rests on the rear wheels with the handle on the ground.4) Remove the hubcap5) Remove the "C" clip with a flat blade screwdriver (6) Put off the wheel?7) Remove the pinion gear, being careful not to lose the little dog that rests freely now in the axle slot.Under the pinion gear is a lip (a "dog") Place the hand crank over the drive axle. 9) Lower the cutting edges of each of the 5 blades with sharpening compound and rotate crank slowly and steadily in the reverse direction from mowing. Continue for 3 minutes, or until 1/16 deep with 6 point socket, a chuck socket adapter and a drill. 10) Clean off all the compound with a solvent soaked rag. 1) Install the pinion gear.2) Install the pinion gear.3) Install the "C" clip with the screwdriver.4) Install the hub cap5) Test with paper to confirm necessary repeat of the procedure.6) Enjoy some clean, quiet cutting. Reel lawn mowers are ideal for small lawns. They are environmentally and budget-friendly. Moreover, it doesnt emit any fumes or noise. It also helps maintain a healthy lawn. Instead of other mowers rotating blades that chew up and whack off the top of the grass, the reel mowers blades act like a pair of scissors that cut off the top of the grass efficiently. It depends on lots of factors, like in the mowing time when the blades meet with small stones, rocks, and any kind of hard obstacles it loses the blades sharpness. But generally, Mowerslab experts recommend every 20-25 hours of usage take an interval and sharpen the blades. But some people do it once or twice a year. Conversely, if you use a reel mower in a commercial location, we recommend sharpening mower blades once a week for optimal performance.Working with dull blades will damage the grassroots. And make your lawn brown instead of green. To maintain a healthy lawn you have to do it.Well, dont worry! In this article, we will provide you a step-by-step guide on how to sharpen your reel mower blades within an hour.However, before sharpening reel mower blades we required some tools that will save time, effort and make your work much easier than ever.Tools we required:A fileA hand glovesProtective eyeglassesA regular sharpening kit.A back lapping sharpening kit.Use of power drill with a sharpening attachment.Use of metal finishing sandpaper.A rangeThere are two crucial parts of reel mowers. The rest of the machine exists to support those two main parts. Wheels drive a gear that spins the 5-7 blades and the blades angle spin the grass better. Also, there is a roller behind the bed knife that allows adjusting the cut on a regular height.Well, before sharpening blades, we have to make some safety precautions: wear hand gloves, protective eyeglasses to protect your hand and eyes, gear tight fitting clothes; no jewelry. Loose-fitting clothes or jewelry tend to get hooked on the machine parts and, therefore, leading to serious accidents. I'll sharpen the blades if youre tired of the weeds!Wear landscaping boots and jeans that will help to protect your feet and legs from the object that will be thrown away by the reel mower. Wear a face shield to protect your face from any kind of tiny metal particles, sanding stone, and others. All these gears protect you from accidents while sharpening your mower blades. Our main goal is to make your reel lawn mower blades like a bread knife.So, we dont want to waste your precious time. Lets get into the definite reel mower blades sharpening guide.A mill file is an ideal tool for sharpening reel mower blades. However, many hardware stores will carry special mill files that are specially designed for sharpening a reel mower blade.Well, here we mention the 5 steps to sharpen reel mower blades with a file. Lay the mower handle down on a flat surface or a workbench or table and use a broom handle to ensure that you blocked the reel and bales wont spin while youre busy sharpening the blades. Use a stiff wire brush or some coarse sandpaper to carefully remove the debris from the blades.Scrape The File On The BladeWhenPress carefully to the toothed end of the metal mill on the dull edge of the first blades. Now use the file to scratch the edge of the blades, and always ensure that you go forward and backward throughout the length of the blades. And also dont try to make the new cutting angles.Youre just trying to remove one or two millimeters from the dull cutting angle.Do it several times. It fully depends on the blades conditions. But we recommend at least up to seven times.Repeat previous steps for all bladesOnce you have sharp the edge of the blade, now you will need to remove the broom handle and carefully rotate the mower cylinder to fully access the next blade. Then re-secure the blades and repeat the sharpening process for all the dull blades.Use Grease and Lubricate to Protect BladesAfter SharpeningWhen youre done sharpening all the blades, apply gear to avoid rusting of the metal blades. On the other hand, Spray (light) some penetrating lubricant like WD40 on all the moving parts.Also, MowersLab experts recommend you should coat the blades with penetrating WD40 lubricant or a little bit of linseed oil soaked into the clean paper towel.Now we are taking a detailed look at how to use a sharpening kit to sharpen the reel mower blades.Lets get started! In 2021 there are some mower manufacturers offering some special sharpening kits to sharpen the reel mower blades. Generally, they provide Back Lapping!Its yet another easy and efficient way to sharpen dull mower blades. It comes with a handle and a sharpening compound. The sharpening compounds are applying on the cutting edge.Now we use a handle or lapping tool to turn the reel mower driving gears. For the razor sharpness, you have to move the blades in one direction for 3 to 4 passes.In our experience, its not working as well as the file. And also takes more time and effort.But the advantage of using the back strapping and sharpening compound method, it cuts the blade angles equally so that you dont worry about matching the bevel angle of the blades. Properly adjusted blade alignment ensures a clean and efficient cut without any training. However, it wont damage any grassroots and helps to maintain the green lawn.Now we know how to sharpen the blades. Adjust the blades alignment is the major part of this definitive guide. Follow these 4 steps and adjust the blade alignment.Step 1: Lay down the mower handlebar on the workbench for easy access to the reel and check the two wheels with small wood blocks to prevent them from moving and turning the cutting cylinder.Step 2: Spin the reel with your hand several times to determine the type of adjustment required. If you do not hear any kind of metal scraping sound, everything is fine. But if you hear metal scraping sounds, find the position and adjust the blades away from the horizontal cutting bar. Now, if the blades spin freely, move it closer to the reel cylinder.Step 3: If you think they are not in the right position, take a screwdriver and tighten the blades and make it right positioned. Also, if you need to bring the blades closer, simply tighten the screws.Step 4: Spin the blades again to determine if any further adjustments are needed. Check and turn the adjustment screw a little at a time until you achieve the proper position. You shouldnt hire a professional or go to a service center to sharpen a reel mower. You can do it by yourself with these simple steps.Easy Job Right? Honestly, reel mowers are really handy gardening tools to maintain a healthy lawn.We are at the end of this article.Hopefully to say you enjoy our reel mower sharpening definitive guide. And also if you have questions or confusion feel free to drop your comments.Our experts are ready to help you.A reel mower is an eco-friendly, low-maintenance alternative to traditional gas or electric mowers. Keeping the blades sharp is essential for a clean, even cut, healthy lawn. This comprehensive guide will cover how to sharpen reel mower blades, including general knowledge, helpful tips, and advice. Reel mowers are an excellent option for maintaining your lawn while minimizing environmental impact. They are quiet, easy to maneuver, and offer numerous benefits over traditional gas or electric mowers. According to a study by the University of California, Riverside, gas-powered lawn mowers can emit significant amounts of air pollution. Switching to a reel mower can help reduce your carbon footprint and improve air quality. However, to ensure optimal performance, it is vital to keep the blades sharp.If you notice any of the following signs, its time to sharpen your reel mower blades:Uneven cuts: A dull blade can leave your lawn looking patchy and uneven.Frayed grass tips: Dull blades can tear the grass rather than cutting it cleanly, leaving frayed tips that can turn brown.Difficulty pushing the mower: If the mower is challenging to push, it could be due to dull blades, as they dont cut the grass efficiently.How to Sharpen Reel Mower Blades: A Step-by-Step GuideBefore starting, gather the following tools and materials:Reel mower sharpening kitProtective glovesEye protectionRags or towelsA flathead screwdriverA brush or clothStep 1: Prepare the MowerPosition the mower on a flat surface. Use a flathead screwdriver to remove the mowers wheel and side cover.Clean the blades with a brush or cloth to remove any dirt or grass clippings.Step 2: Apply the Sharpening CompoundPut on your protective gloves and eye protection.Apply the sharpening compound (included in the sharpening kit) to the cutting edge of each blade.Reassemble the mower, making sure the wheel and side cover are securely attached.Step 3: Sharpen the BladesAdjust the reel mowers cutting blade against the bed knife (the stationary blade). Ensure the blades make contact, but do not tighten too much.Push the mower forward for several minutes to sharpen the blades. The friction between the blades will sharpen the cutting edges.Once the blades are sharp, back off the adjustment to create a small gap between the cutting blade and bed knife. Check the manufacturers recommendations for specific settings.Step 4: Clean and LubricateClean any remaining sharpening compound off the blades using a rag or towel.Apply a lubricant, such as WD-40, to the blades to prevent rust and ensure smooth operation.Test the mower on your lawn to ensure its cutting efficiently.Additional TipsAlways disconnect any power source before working on your reel mower to avoid any accidents.Wear proper protective gear, such as gloves and eye protection, when sharpening the blades to prevent injuries.Keep children and pets away from the work area while sharpening the mower blades.Store your reel mower in a dry, covered area when not in use to protect it from moisture and rust.Inspect your mower regularly for loose parts or signs of wear and replace or repair them as needed.Clean your mower after each use to remove grass clippings and debris, which can dull the blades and lead to rust.If you prefer not to use a sharpening kit, you can use a file to sharpen the blades manually. Make sure to follow the blade angle to maintain the proper cutting edge.For heavily worn blades or those with nicks and damage, consider seeking the help of a professional sharpening service to ensure the blades are restored correctly.The frequency of sharpening will depend on how often you use your reel mower and the type of grass youre cutting. As a general rule, sharpen your blades at least once a season, or when you notice any signs that they need sharpening (uneven cuts, difficulty pushing the mower, etc.).Sharpening your reel mower blades is essential for maintaining a healthy lawn and ensuring the mower operates efficiently. By following this step-by-step guide and incorporating regular maintenance, your reel mower will provide years of reliable service. If youre in the market for new lawn care equipment or seeking more information, visit Best of Machinery for comprehensive reviews, how-to guides, and expert advice. Reel mower blades need be sharpened very rarely. Poor blade contact is often misdiagnosed as a queue for unpleasant. 95% of the time, mowing problems can be fixed by adjusting the blades so they are properly spaced. After several years of use, blades can become dull and dull. This is usually caused by pebbles that snag on the mowing blades, but driving the reel mower over rocks or self-running over rocks can also take the edge off. As the blades get dull, it gets progressively more difficult to use the mower. Sharp blades cut smoothly, while dull blades force you to push them. If you use a blade, you will have to use a sharpener tool. There are also more precise sharpening tools. The give fine control over the angle of the blade and also take the edge off. These fixed position sharpeners are more difficult to use than levers, so they are not recommended. If you have a power drill, a sharpening attachment may be the most convenient way to sharpen reel mower blades. Rotary sharpeners fit onto powerdrills just like drill bits, and they work like polishing brushes. Let the drill do all the work, and your spin will thank you for it.Another way to sharpen the blades is with metal finishing sandpaper. Using a sheet of sandpaper to do the job is pretty hard work, but there are sandpaper appliqus that do a wonderful job. These sandpaper sharpeners attach to the back blade and brush against the cutting blades as they rotate past. To sharpen the reel mower, all you have to do is attach the sandpaper and give it a push.After sharpening, putting a light coat of oil on the blade can prevent rust and other corrosion from setting in. Low acidity vegetable oil is a good choice because it wont leave any harmful residue on your lawn, and it will protect the blade from moisture.When is the wrong time to use a reel mower?

How to sharpen scotts reel mower. How to sharpen a reel mower. How to sharpen a fiskars reel mower. How to use scotts reel mower.

