



Let's Build Something Together™

**Skill Level: BEGINNER** These how-to's are suitable for people who are new to DIY and who have a basic knowledge of tools. If you've painted a room or re-potted a plant, you can probably complete one of these projects by yourself in a few hours or less.

### ✓ MATERIALS

- Drop Cloth
- Work Gloves
- Heavy Duty Plastic—a plastic drop cloth will work
- Open End or Box Wrenches
- Socket Wrenches
- Cleaning Brush
- Putty Knife
- Shop Rags
- Used-Oil Container
- Fresh Oil
- Oil Vacuum—Optional
- Blade Removal Tool or Piece of 2x4
- Blade—if necessary
- Belt—if necessary
- Fuel Stabilizer
- Fresh Gas
- Gas Can
- Spray Lubricant
- Tarp
- Air Filter
- Sparkplugs

Keeping your lawn in top shape requires keeping your mower in top shape. A well-maintained lawnmower not only runs better, but it cuts better too. Follow these routine maintenance steps to keep your mower running and cutting, for years.

### SAFETY

**Perform any maintenance in a well-ventilated area. Open the garage door for maximum air circulation.**

### FALL MAINTENANCE

**After a season of mowing, perform these steps before storing your lawnmower for winter.**

- 01 Remove the grass catcher and brush out any grass clippings.**
- 02 Run the mower for about a minute. The oil will be easier to change while it's warm.**
- 03 Turn off the mower.**
- 04 Cover the work area with a drop cloth.**
- 05 Disconnect the sparkplug wire from the sparkplug. Now the mower is safe to work on.**

**06 Brush off the rest of the mower with a cleaning brush.**

**CAUTION: The engine will still be hot, so be careful.**

**07 Prevent the gas from spilling when you tip the mower to change the oil and blades.**

1. Unscrew the gas cap.
2. Place a piece of heavy duty plastic over the gas inlet.
3. Replace the gas cap.



#### IMPORTANT

Every lawnmower is different, so always follow the manufacturer's instructions. Also use proper safety precautions. If you don't feel comfortable performing maintenance on your lawnmower, call a professional for help.

### FALL MAINTENANCE (cont.)

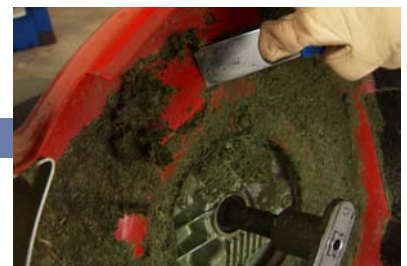
#### 08 Change the oil.

1. The oil keeps the engine lubricated and working properly. So change it after every mowing season.
2. Remove the oil cap and dipstick.
3. Set the used-oil container next to the mower.
4. Tip the mower on its side to pour the oil from the mower into the container.  
Always tip the mower "sparkplug side up" or "dipstick side down" to keep oil off the air filter, carburetor, and gas tank. If oil gets in these components, the engine may not work properly.
5. Once the oil has completely drained from the engine, replace the oil cap.
6. Another option when changing the oil is to use an oil vacuum. These systems are easy to use and leave little mess.
7. **Never pour oil down the drain. Instead, contact your local recycling center for oil disposal instructions.**



#### 09 Change the blade.

1. Tip the mower back on its side to change the blade.
2. Wedge a small piece of 2x4 between the blade and mower deck to help prevent the blade from spinning.  
- Or you can use a special blade removal tool.
3. Remove the blade with a socket wrench.
4. Take the blade to a repair shop to have it sharpened. If you want to do this step yourself, you can purchase a blade sharpener and balancer at Lowe's.  
- If you need a new blade you can purchase a new one at Lowe's. Just bring in the make, model and serial number of your mower.
5. Scrape any grass clippings from the bottom of the mower deck with a putty knife.  
- Most manufacturers don't recommend using a hose because the water will rust the mower.  
- **Caution: Never use a shop-vac near gasoline.**
6. If your mower has belts, belt covers and pulleys, brush them off too. If the belts appear cracked or worn, replace them.
7. Reattach the blade.



#### 10 Turn the mower back on its wheels and refill with fresh oil.

- Use only the oil type recommended by the manufacturer.
- **DO NOT OVERFILL THE CRANK CASE.** Too much oil causes problems when the engine is running. Add the oil slowly in small increments and check with the dipstick several times. This will ensure you have added the correct amount without over-filling.

### FALL MAINTENANCE (cont.)

#### 11 Treat the gas.

1. Gas can decompose over winter and damage your mower's engine.
2. Preserve the fuel in the tank with a fuel stabilizer.
3. Mix the stabilizer in a gas can, then fill the can with fresh gas.
4. Fill the gas tank with the treated gas.
5. Despite what you might believe, a full gas tank is less of a fire hazard than an empty one.
6. Replace the gas cap.
7. You can also purchase a fuel stabilizer gas cap, which automatically releases fuel additives into the gas throughout the mowing season. It has a cartridge that should be replaced every six months.

#### 12 Lubricate any small moving parts with a spray lubricant.

- Do not use engine oil on the mower's exterior.

#### 13 Clean the air filter.

- If your mower has a foam filter, clean it with soap and water.
- Saturate it lightly with engine oil. The oil helps filter out dust particles and debris. If there is any sign of damage, replace the filter.
- If you have a paper filter, replace it.



#### 14 Replace the sparkplug.

#### 15 Reconnect the sparkplug wire and let the engine run for about a minute.

- This helps work in the fresh oil and fuel stabilizer.

#### 16 Disconnect the sparkplug wire before storing.

#### 17 Store the mower in an area where it won't be exposed to heat or gas appliances, and cover with a tarp.

## SPRING MAINTENANCE

When it's time to get the mower out for spring, there should only be a few things that you'll need to do to be ready for the mowing season.

#### 01 Wipe off any excess oil with a shop rag.

### SPRING MAINTENANCE (cont.)

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#### 02 Inspect the mower thoroughly.

- Make sure all moving parts are working properly.
- Remove any debris that may have been left by small animals over winter.
- If you have a fuel stabilizer gas cap, replace the cartridge.

#### 03 Reconnect the sparkplug wire.

#### 04 Start the mower and let it run for a few minutes.

#### 05 To keep your mower working properly throughout the summer season, frequently check the oil and remove any debris.

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