

How to keep your tools in top shape

(StatePoint) For DIY-ers, the cooling weather is an ideal time to get all those important home improvement projects completed. Having a well-maintained set of tools can mean the difference between a productive weekend or one of frustration.

“Well maintained tools simply work better,” says Chris Barker, Technical Services Manager at Royal Purple, a manufacturer of premium synthetic lubricants. “Taking care of your tools will save you time and energy on projects and money on replacing mishandled tools.”

Here are some important things you should do to ensure your tools last a long time:

- **Proper Use:** Use the right tool for the right job.

You can compromise the quality of your tools by using them incorrectly.

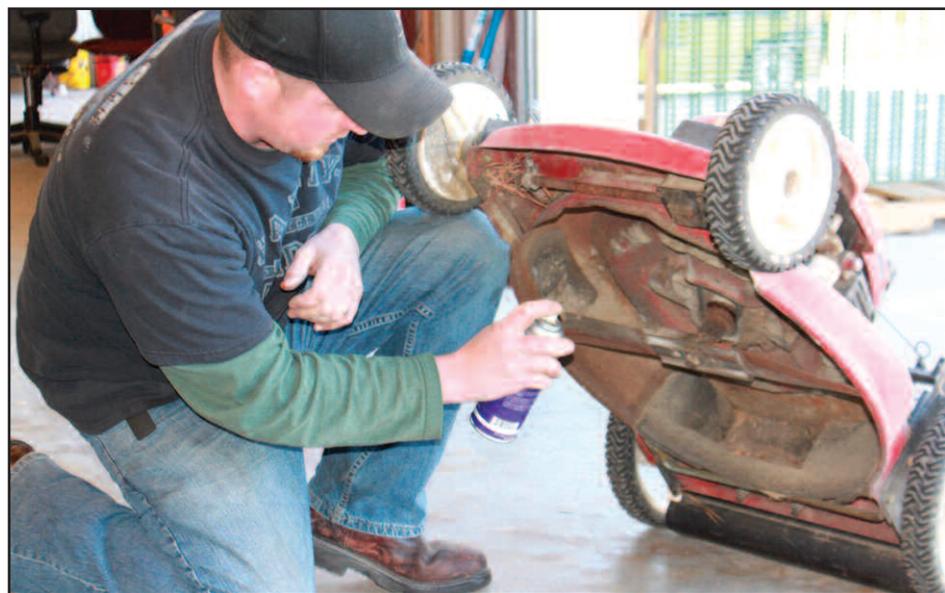
- **Clean tools after use:** After a long day of working on your home or in your garage, the last thing on your mind may be cleaning your tools. But putting them away without cleaning them invites rust and poor performance. Just be sure you completely dry your tools after you clean them.

- **Lubricate:** All the cleaning in the world can't protect your tools from the long-term effects of oxygen, which is why no DIY-er should be without a multipurpose synthetic lubricant. A long-lasting lubricant means less maintenance for you. For example, Royal Purple Maxfilm, a high-film strength, multipurpose synthetic lubricant uses a pro-

prietary additive called Synerlec to adhere to metal parts and provide continuous protection. It is rated highly by the Handyman Club of America for performance, quality durability and effectiveness.

Maintaining your tools and lawn equipment with regular lubrication will protect them against wear, rust and corrosion and can actually improve the condition of metal surfaces. Be sure to use it in an upright position to maximize aerosol propellant life.

- **Put tools away:** Leaving tools exposed renders them vulnerable to harmful elements. Proper storage protects them from rust, rot and damage. Invest in high-quality tool boxes, hanging racks and bins. You'll also have a more organized workspace,



which can save you valuable time.

High-quality tools can be a true long-term investment, but only if you take steps to treat them with care.

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309 Edgewater Avenue, Lewistown
 Office/Fax: (717) 242-3300
 Cell: (717) 994-3452

HIC #: PA 011426 - BU #: 12056
 www.wrayslandscaping.com
 wrayslandscaping@hotmail.com

In May of 2006, Wray's Landscaping Inc. was established. Wray's Landscaping Inc. serves both residential and commercial customers in Mifflin, Juniata and Snyder counties. They are a locally owned, fully insured business based in Lewistown that offers free estimates.

Corey Wray, the owner of Wray's Landscaping Inc. founded the business on a premise that they would offer high quality work at an affordable price that would not only meet but exceed their customer's expectations. The main goal at Wray's Landscaping Inc. is to strive for 100 percent customer satisfaction. All larger jobs are owner finished and are approved by the customer before being considered to be 100 percent complete.

Wray's Landscaping Inc. provides a full line of year round services. Some of the services are; lawn maintenance, the installation of new lawns, computer landscape design, Hardscapes, custom hauling, mini-excavator & skid loader work, and snow removal.

Lawn maintenance includes everything from mowing and trimming the grass on your property then blowing the trimmed grass from driveways, porches and sidewalks, to applying fertilizer/weed control/insect/pest control to lawns based off either their Premium or Basic Granulated Fertilization/Weed Control programs. They also offer spraying of lawns and weeds with a specialized product designed to kill specific weeds in your lawn and not harm existing desired grass.

Other landscaping services would include; cutting a true edge around mulch/flower beds, then applying "Snapshot" a granulated herbicide for weed control and re-mulching beds with either a Hemlock, natural or a dyed color of single, double or triple ground hardwood mulch, trimming of shrubs/bushes, spring and fall clean-ups of leaves/sticks and other debris and then properly disposing of them. Many more services available upon request.

A Hardscape is any feature that is made from ce-

ment or stone that is used to enhance the landscape of an area or to make that area more functional and offer lower maintenance for that area. Some examples of the many different types of Hardscapes that are offered by Wray's Landscaping Inc are; paver/cement walkways, paver/cement patios, retaining walls, steps, and river stone/crushed brick/sandstone shrubbery beds. Many Hardscapes that have been done by Wray's Landscaping Inc. are available for viewing on the internet on their website: www.wrayslandscaping.com

Snow removal would range from plowing snow from any size driveway or parking lot to snow blowing or snow shoveling sidewalks and applying an ice melter that is safe for use on concrete or anti-skid or rock salt to stone and asphalt drive and parking areas using either hand push spreaders and/or truck mounted spreaders.

Wray's Landscaping Inc. currently has five full-time employees and five part-time employees. Some of the certifications that the employees have obtained are for the installation of Segmental Retaining Walls from the NCMA (National Concrete Mason's Association)/PCMA (Pennsylvania Concrete Masons Association), Rockwood Retaining Wall Installer

Certification, certification for the installation of VISTA low voltage lighting systems, and the application of pesticides.

The hours of operation are Monday- Friday 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Saturday by appointment. For more information about Wray's Landscaping Inc. or to just take a look at some of their many finished jobs in our area go to their website at www.wrayslandscaping.com or give Corey a call at Office/Fax (717) 242-3300 Cell (717) 994-3452 or drop him an email wrayslandscaping@hotmail.com.

