

PRUNING TOOL CARE

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1. Clean with soapy water (I use Dawn) to remove sap, dirt, rust, bacteria and soil organisms.

Wear gloves to protect hand; use scrub pads, metal scrubber, brush, steel wool, wet/dry sandpaper to aid in cleaning.

2. Sharpen beveled edge with a sharpening stone or mill file, push over blade, don't pull back.

Lay the sharpener flat against the edge.

Keep the bevel at the same angle as when new. Most bevels are between 12 to 23 degrees.

(Hint; fold paper in $\frac{1}{4}$ = 45 degree, $\frac{1}{8}$ = 22.5 degrees, $\frac{1}{16}$ = 11.25 degrees)

Typically, about a half dozen long, even strokes will give you the edge you need (if not, then you're not holding the file at the right angle).



a. Bypass pruners have 1 beveled edge

b. Anvil pruners may have 1 or 2 bevels. Double bevel edges can be sharpened with a knife sharpener or sharpen both sides equally with your sharpener.

3. Oil all moving parts – between blades, nuts, bolts, etc.

Use any lightweight machine oil, all purpose. WD-40 is okay in a pinch, however it contains water in the mixture and will rust your pruners, if not dry.

4. Wrap sharpened, oiled blade in a towel to deep oil from getting in unwanted places.

Sharp pruning blades make pruning easier and less fatiguing on the hands.