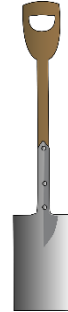
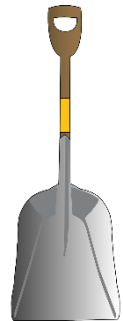


### What?

- A spade is a tool with a sharp-edged, typically rectangular, metal blade and a long handle, used for digging or cutting earth, or turf etc.
- A shovel has a broad, slightly angled blade and is used for lifting and shifting loose material. They are not designed for digging. It can be round-mouthed or square-mouthed.



spade



shovel

### Why?



- A spade has a straight angled blade which allows it to be propelled into harder surfaces, such as compacted earth, with great force in order to dig out material.
- A shovel has an angled blade so it can be flat on the ground whilst the handle is not. This allows it to be pushed under the material more easily than attempting to push directly into the material itself. They also have fluted sides to hold material in.
- It is important to use spades and shovels for their correct purpose and not to strain yourself when using them.

### Do ✓

- ✓ Check the site for dangers
- ✓ Transport tools safely in the minibus, clamp into place so they don't move about
- ✓ Be aware of who is around you to avoid hitting someone with the other end of the shaft
- ✓ Use the pointed shovels, with the smaller point of contact, to help break into a pile
- ✓ Ensure safe lifting when shovelling stone to minimise strain on your back
- ✓ Clean all tools when you have finished and put them away

### Don't ✗

- ✗ Don't use a shovel for digging
- ✗ Don't forget to take regular breaks from digging or shovelling
- ✗ Don't use a spade for levering things out of the ground
- ✗ Don't use the middle of your foot to assist with penetrating the ground, use either your toe or heel



<b>Document Name</b>	<i>TBT Spades &amp; Shovels</i>	<b>Document No.</b>	<i>OC/HS/TBT 27</i>
<b>Document Owner</b>	<i>David Shaftoe</i>	<b>Date of Issue</b>	<i>07.06.20</i>
<b>Related TBTs</b>	<i>Cement &amp; Wet Concrete; Digging &amp; Planting; Path Work</i>	<b>Version No.</b>	<i>1</i>