

TOOLBOX TALK

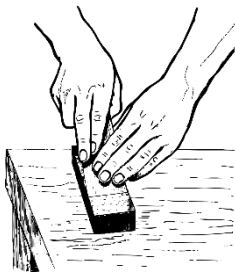
32. SHARPENING STONES

What?

- Sharpening stones, water stones or whetstones are used to sharpen the edges of steel tools and implements such as scythes, chisels and billhooks, through grinding and honing.
- Sharpening stones come in a wide range of shapes, sizes, and material compositions. Cigar stones are used on tools with rasping, curving blades such as slashers and scythes. Canoe stones are for flat-bladed tools such as spades.



Why?



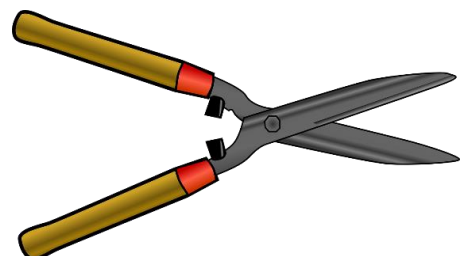
- A blunt tool will not do the job it is designed for and could be unsafe, as it can result in the user having to apply extra force. Therefore, it is essential to learn the correct method for sharpening and keep blades sharp.

Do ✓

- ✓ Learn how to sharpen your chosen tool properly
- ✓ Keep sharpening stones in a dedicated box as they can easily break
- ✓ Always wear gloves when sharpening blades
- ✓ Use water to lubricate the process and minimise the amount of residue

Don't ✗

- ✗ Don't leave tools lying about once sharpened; store them away safely



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Related TBTs	<i>Austrian Scythe; Grass Hooks & Sickles; Slashers & Billhooks</i>	Version No.	<i>1</i>