

What?

- A rake is an implement consisting of a pole with a tooth-like comb at the end.
- Garden rakes are lightweight general-purpose tools used for soil leveling and removing small stones from the surface.
- Leaf rakes are used for lighter weight clean-ups on leaves and small branches.
- Tarmac rakes are larger and stronger than garden rakes and are used to spread chippings and ballast on footpaths.
- Hay rakes are wooden with large comb teeth used to rake grass and other light vegetation.
- Muck rakes or chromes are used to drag reeds and rubbish out of ponds.

Why?

- Rakes are long handled tools and so care needs to be taken when using them to avoid hitting people working around you. It is a good idea to keep two tool lengths away from other people and to keep one hand near to the end of the rake, as you are less likely to hit someone behind you.
- It is important not to strain yourself when raking. All rakes are used with two hands; when pulling material towards you, keep your back straight and let your legs and arms do the pulling.



Do ✓

- ✓ Check the site for dangers before raking
- ✓ Secure rakes at the back of the bus so they can't move whilst travelling
- ✓ Carry rakes with the teeth facing down
- ✓ Place the rake on the ground with the teeth facing into the ground when not in use
- ✓ Keep tools in one area when not in use to prevent tripping over them, especially when working in long grassy areas
- ✓ Be aware of who is around you when raking to avoid hitting someone with the end of the handle

Don't ✗

- ✗ Don't forget to take regular breaks; raking can be hard work on your back
- ✗ Don't leave a rake on the ground teeth up, somebody could step on it and injure themselves
- ✗ Don't carry a rake over your shoulder



Document Name	<i>TBT Raking</i>	Document No.	<i>OC/HS/TBT 40</i>
Document Owner	<i>David Shaftoe</i>	Date of Issue	<i>07.06.20</i>
Related TBTs	<i>Manual Handling; Path Work; Ponds & Water Bodies</i>	Version No.	<i>1</i>