

What?



- A ‘garden fork’, ‘spading fork’, ‘digging fork’ or ‘graip’ is a gardening implement, with a relatively short handle and a ‘D’ or ‘T’ end. It has several (usually four) short, sturdy ‘tines’.
- Pitchforks and manure forks have a longer handle and less closely spaced tines. They are used for moving material such as piled hay, compost or manure.

Why?

- Garden forks are used for loosening, lifting and turning over soil; the tines allow it to be pushed more easily into the ground than a spade.
- Pitch forks are used for moving loose material such as piled hay, compost, or manure.
- Forks are not designed to lever things out of the ground – use a mattock or a crowbar instead.

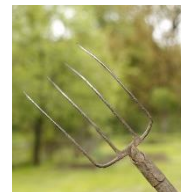


Do ✓

- ✓ Check the site for dangers before using a fork
- ✓ Secure forks at the back of the bus whilst transporting
- ✓ Wear steel toe capped boots
- ✓ Keep the head of the fork in front of you so you can see it when you are carrying it
- ✓ Keep tools all in one area when not in use to prevent tripping up over them, especially when working in long grassy areas
- ✓ Be aware of who is around you when using a fork to avoid hitting someone
- ✓ Make sure no one else is aiming for the same pile, to prevent hitting someone’s foot
- ✓ Check forks and report any damage
- ✓ Count tools back in after the activity
- ✓ Clean the tools and put away securely after use

Don't ✗

- ✗ Don't forget to take regular breaks and look after your back
- ✗ Don't leave a fork on the ground with the tines facing up as this could cause an injury
- ✗ Don't carry a fork over your shoulder
- ✗ Don't use the middle of your boot to assist with penetrating the ground, use either the front or back of your boot



Document Name	<i>TBT Forking</i>	Document No.	<i>OC/HS/TBT 41</i>
Document Owner	<i>David Shaftoe</i>	Date of Issue	<i>07.06.20</i>
Related TBTs	<i>Manual Handling; Raking; Spades & Shovels</i>	Version No.	<i>1</i>