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## **Guide to basic Lawn Mower Maintenance**

**By Keith Kingston**

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Trying to start your lawn mower after a long winter can be very frustrating. Performing a few routine maintenance tasks before you store your lawn mower for the winter can save you time in the spring, prolong the life of your lawn mower, and save you money over the long run. Even if you have already put your lawn mower into storage for the winter, a few simple maintenance tasks performed before starting your lawn mower in the spring can be very beneficial.

Wash and dry your lawn mower after the mowing season is over. A power blower can be very helpful in removing grass and debris from the underside of your lawn mower and other hard to reach areas. If your lawn mower engine is air-cooled, use a stick or wooden dowel to remove any residue from the cooling fins. If you have a lawn mower with a water-cooled engine, check the coolant level and fill the reservoir if needed. Clean the radiator cooling fins with a strong jet of water. You should also drain the fuel tank and replace the fuel filter. The air filter housing should be cleaned and the air filter replaced.

Remember to check the spark plug(s) for corrosion and wear. Don't attempt to clean the spark plug if it is showing some wear. It is cheap and easy to replace the spark plug. Be sure to remove any debris before removing the spark plug and by using a bit of anti-seize compound when you replace the old spark plug, you will ensure easier removal next year. Clean and lubricate the throttle linkages and the choke, and apply grease to the mower deck and all the fittings. This will be easier if you remove the mower deck and you can sharpen the blades while the mower deck is off. Sharpening the blades after each mowing season will give you a better cut next year and save you the trouble of having to sharpen them in the spring.

Clean the battery terminals and replace your old lawn mower battery if necessary. You can help prevent corrosion of the terminals if you apply grease to the posts at the end of each mowing season. Change the oil in the engine crankcase and replace the oil filter. You should also drain the gas from your lawn mower before storing it for the winter. During the long summer mowing season, remember to wash your lawn mower and remove any debris after the mower has cooled. Keeping your lawn mower clean will add years to its life and make routine maintenance tasks a lot easier.

Lawn mowing is a job most of us face each and every year. A lawn mower that runs great and is well maintained will make this job more enjoyable and easier all summer long. A yearly check up for your lawn mower is the perfect way to prolong its life and keep it running like new, and your lawn will look great when you mow with a machine that is in top working condition. Your lawn mower will perform at the highest level possible if you remember to perform these simple maintenance tasks each and every year. During the summer months periodically check the oil and the condition of the air and fuel filters. You will save money and your lawn mower will work great for years to come.

Keith Kingston is a professional web publisher, offering information on lawn mowers and lawn mower parts. You can visit his website at <http://www.4-lawnmowers.com/>

### **Lawn Mower - Keep Your Lawn Pretty All The Time**

**By Sharon Albright**

Lawn mower offers to keep your lawn pretty and beautiful all the time. Since a well-maintained lawn is a reflection of the owner's personality and aesthetic senses, so one should always take care of the lawns. A poorly kept lawn overrun with yellow patches and dried weeds is definitely an eyesore to say the least. So to provide good ambience to the entire surrounding of your home you should regularly mow your lawn.

What to consider while purchasing a lawn mower?

The first thing to consider while purchasing a lawn mower is the size and texture of your landscape. Is your lawn sloppy or in a flat ground? What type of lawn mower will exactly suit your purposes? Considering these factors are very important. If your lawn is sloppy in nature, then you should get a lawn mower with high wheels. This will not only make it easier to push up or down a hill but also mow at the fastest speed. The other type includes a cordless or electric lawn mower. This second type is much less messy and mulches your lawn perfectly. However, the third type including the reel lawn mower does not contribute to the environmental pollution and is quite easy to use.

How to maintain your lawn mower?

The lawn mower should not rip or pull the grass and weeds. It should mow the field perfectly. After mowing is complete, you should undertake a good maintenance program so that the lawn mower gives the grasses better cuts for years to come. Every spring you should clean and maintain the following parts of a lawn mower:

- Nuts and bolts should be checked and tightened wherever necessary – Spark plugs should be cleaned and replaced for good firing systems – The air filters should be cleaned and replaced on a regular basis. – Apply oil in your lawn mower to lubricate the engine – Clean the underside deck throughout the season to remove grass and dirt – Sharpen the blades at every alternate months so that the grasses get a clean cut

When you are keeping your lawn mower in storage for a long time, it is advisable that you remove the

oil and gas and clean the exterior.

Safety tips while using lawn mower

To keep the lawn mower in perfect safety, you should properly read the instructions on the manual. While you are using the lawn, make sure that the children are not playing near the mower. Do not fill the tank of the lawn mower with gas in an enclosed area like under the house, garage or in a shed. It can lead to combustible fumes. Lastly, you should never add fuel to your lawn mower while the engine is running.

Sharon Albright is the owner of

. Read more articles on Lawn

Mowers and visit her recommended resources.



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