



# Tool Maintenance

Description of activity	PAL
Cleaning and oiling garden tools	All
Time of Year	Time needed to complete activity
All year	1 hour (dependent on how many tools you wish to clean!)

## Preparation

1. Assess the weather, can you do it outside or would inside be preferable?
2. Bucket of warm soapy water and tools out of the shed.

## Tools and materials

1. Bucket
2. Washing up liquid and warm water
3. Brush
4. Dry cloth
5. Oily rag
6. Oil (vegetable oil is fine)
7. Rubber gloves if desired



## What to do

1. Fill bucket with soapy water.
2. Brush onto tools.
3. Rinse off.
4. Dry with a cloth.
5. Dribble a little oil onto the rag and run into the metal and the joints.



Tools cared for last longer, interacting with them, cleaning off earth, and oiling the joints are experiential processes that can engage everyone.

## Extras

For those wishing to take it further, some tools can be taken apart cleaned and put back together.

Wooden handles can be lightly sanded, wiped clean and oiled with a wood oil and rag according to the instructions on the tin. This will help to stop them rotting or getting woodworm. It's a task that may inspire memories of DIY or of fathers and grandfathers doing the same.

## Adaptations and variations

For those with reduced cognitive ability, touching the tools, the bubbles, the water the oil, will have value.

Using a toothbrush rather than large brush may be easier to move around the tool.

## Weather contingency

Indoors, at a table on a plastic sheet would be suitable for this task.