

SHARPCHAIN

Thank You for Being a Loyal Sharpchain.com Customer!

Before you unsubscribe, you should know that we rarely send out newsletters, in fact this is our first one and I can assure you that the rarity of newsletters from Sharpchain.com will stay that way. We do not want to fill up your inbox with irrelevant emails; we only want to send newsletters that are relevant. So don't expect to see another for many months.

We have a lot of subscribers and we get questions all the time about sharpening chain, so our original thought was to send a monthly sharpening tip, but being a smaller company, that takes time and it also takes away the opportunity for you to perfect your sharpening skills. Below you will find some tips that we have learned over the years on perfecting the perfect sharpening. There are a lot of guides on sharpening, some are good and some are not so good, it really comes down to basic common sense and what works best for you.

The tips below I can assure you will make your chains sharper and last longer.

Tip 1.

Clean your chains before you sharpen them. As your chains wear back and become dull, the raker clearance gets smaller and your chains start to burn the wood rather than cut the wood, you will notice dark wood stains on top of each cutter. You need to clean this wood burning off somehow. In our shop we setup a bench grinder with a wire brush, we would touch each tooth with the wire brush until the top of the cutter was clean, this should only take 1 quick second on each cutter, you don't want to hold the cutter in the wire brush very long as you can damage the cutter, just 1 quick second is all it takes.

Tip 2.

After you have sharpened your chain, check the raker clearance, we use our TL18 raker gauge or any flat file and feeler gauge will do. This clearance is very critical, if you have too small of a clearance, your chains will only cut a fraction of what it should and you will start to burn the wood rather than cut it, you will get a lot of fine sawdust rather than nice wood chips. If the gap is too great, your saw will be too aggressive trying to cut and it will likely just skip over the wood rather than cut it. The proper depth is very important; the depth should be .025 to .030

Tip 3.

Proper sharpening on the cutter is a big deal as well. What I mean by that is people will take back the cutter just a little bit, still leaving a rounded or worn out cutter. Regardless if it's a chipper or chisel chain, you want the cutter top and sides to be squared off, no worn edges. Sometimes you have to take the cutter back a bit more than you like, but to maximize the effectiveness of your sharpened chain, it must be done.

Tips continued on next page ...

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Tip 4.

Sharpening angles are important, but people put way too much emphasis on getting the perfect angle, thinking the angles are what cut the wood. While the perfect angle gives you the maximum cut, it's not nearly as important as steps 1, 2 and 3 above. Every chain manufacturer and sharpener manufacturer has their own recommendations, follow those recommendations to the best that you can as they do vary significantly. I would highly recommend downloading our chain angle chart, here is a link and it is free to download. This can also be found in top left corner of our website under MANUALS.

http://sharpchain.com/shop/manuals/sharpener_settings.pdf

Tip 5.

Cleaning or de-glazing of your grinding wheels, keep your grinding wheels clean and shaped. You should clean your grinding wheels every 2-3 sharpening's. Use a dressing stone or brick and just lightly touch the grinding wheel to shape it and clean it, it doesn't take much. You can find accessories for maintaining your grinding wheels at the following link.

<http://sharpchain.com/shop/GW1.htm>

Once again, we thank you for your business and loyalty as a customer, don't hesitate to send us an email with your questions to support@sharpchain.com

Best Regards and Happy Sharpenings,

Mark

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