

Press Release

Fit for Spring Gardening

MTD Service Tips for the Correct Care and Maintenance of your Gardening Tools after Winter

Saarbrücken, March 10th, 2010

Winter is slowly coming to an end and the first warm spring days start your garden blooming. Time to shake your gardening tools out of their hibernation and get them ready for the coming season. Follow the following care and maintenance tips so that the spring awakening doesn't become a rude awakening. MTD, one of the leading manufacturers of lawn and garden equipment, gives tips for using your gardening tools after a long winter.

There are really only two rules you need to follow. First: follow the care and storage tips in your service manual. And second: consult a trustworthy specialized service center.

Michael Wicke, Head of After Sales and Service Europe at MTD, explains: "We take our responsibility to our customers seriously and actively inform them about the importance of professional inspections. This maintains the tool's value and operational reliability. Only specialized service centers have the know-how and equipment necessary for comprehensive and professional maintenance. Because, in the end we want our customers to take pleasure in their gardening tools over many years."

Your tools should be maintained regularly and there is a long list of items that need to be checked. For example, the engine oil should be changed, valves, spark plugs and the air filter checked. In addition, the blades and the entire mower should be systematically inspected.

If your lawn mower was winterized correctly nothing should stand in the way of its return to service in the spring. Whatever you do, please read the service manual carefully. Refill the oil up to the mark on the dipstick. Make sure that the maximum oil level is not exceeded and remember to use special lawn mower oil. The first oil change should be carried out after about five hours of operation, then after every 50 hours of operation, additionally at every start of the season. Check the oil level regularly.



Use fuel that is clean and fresh. Due to the increase of the amount of ethanol in engine fuels the shelf life of fuel is limited, its ignitability sinks, which in turn leads to start problems. After a long winter pause or storage of the machine you should add a fuel stabilizer to the fuel. This keeps the fuel „fresh“. With a stabilizer you can store fuel safely over a longer period of time. Before reinstalling the battery, check battery fluid and when necessary, refill it with distilled water. If you follow all of the tips above nothing can prevent a successful start in the spring season.

Take the Following Tips to Heart each Season:

Make sure that all the movable parts run smoothly, especially after the machine has not been used for a while. Reread the service manual to reacquaint yourself with your machine.

The key to a long tool life is care and maintenance and that is why cleanliness is so important. Before thoroughly cleaning the tool and freeing it from grass, leaves and soil please pull the spark plug connector. Rotting grass damages the paint and thus, leads to corrosion. After cleaning the machine with water, dry it carefully and make sure that no moisture remains – rust never sleeps. Avoid the use of steam and pressure washers. High water pressure can damage paint, electric parts, sealing elements and bearings. Store your tool in a clean, dry place. After a long break, the service life and reliability of the machine's battery can be guaranteed by a charger with trickle charging.

If a winter inspection wasn't carried out by a service center, then a spring inspection should definitely take place.

About MTD Products AG:

The MTD Products AG, Saarbrücken-Bübingen is the European headquarters of MTD Inc., which is based in Cleveland, Ohio (USA). It was established after the takeover of the tradition-rich German manufacturer GUTBROD by MTD in 1996. Its market share places it among the top-ten manufacturers of powered garden equipment worldwide. In Europe, MTD has its own sales locations for Germany, France, Belgium, Austria, Denmark, Hungary, Sweden, Bulgaria, Russia, Switzerland and Poland. All other European markets are serviced via sales partners and importers.

The MTD portfolio in Europe comprises the brands MTD, GUTBROD, Yard-Man, Cub Cadet and WOLF-Garten. Its product range includes electric and petrol mowers, verticutters, lawn tractors, compact tractors, ride-on mowers, garden shredders, brushcutters, tillers, snow throwers, chain saws, seeds, fertilizer, garden shears and lopping shears, as well as gardening tools.

The European product plants are located in Germany (Saarbrücken-Bübingen, Betzdorf, St. Wendel) and In Hungary (Nemesvamos).