



Mower Maintenance Checklist

3 seasonal checks that keep your mower running and your grass cutting clean

PRINT + CHECK

MY MOWER INFO (FILL IN ONCE, REFERENCE ALL SEASON)

Make / Model: _____ Blade bolt torque: _____

Oil type / capacity: _____ Spark plug number: _____

Air filter number: _____ Blade part number: _____

Spring Startup (Before First Mow)

MARCH

- Change the oil.** Drain old oil, replace with manufacturer-recommended weight. Most walk-behinds use 10W-30 or SAE 30.
- Replace or clean air filter.** Paper filters: replace. Foam filters: wash with soap, dry, re-oil lightly.
- Check tire pressure.** Uneven tires = uneven cut height. Match all tires to the PSI on the sidewall.
- Add fresh fuel.** Old fuel from last season degrades. Drain and replace. Use ethanol-free if available.
- Replace spark plug.** Annual replacement. Costs \$3 to \$5. Gap to manufacturer spec (typically 0.030 inches).
- Sharpen blade (or install your fresh spare).** 30-degree angle, not razor sharp. Balance after every sharpening.
- Clean the deck underside.** Scrape off caked grass from last season with a putty knife. Buildup blocks airflow and reduces cut quality.
- Set mowing height to 3 inches** for the first spring cut. Raise to 3.5+ as the season progresses.

Mid-Season Check (Every 20 to 25 Hours)

JULY

- Sharpen blade again.** After 10 to 12 weeks of weekly mowing, the blade is dull. Second sharpening of the season.
- Check oil level.** Top off if low. Change if it looks dark/gritty (especially on dusty sandy soil).
- Inspect deck underside.** Scrape buildup. Check for rust, cracks, or bent baffles that affect airflow.
- Check blade balance.** Use a magnetic balancer (\$8). Unbalanced blade = vibration = bearing damage.
- Clean air filter.** Sandy LI soil = dustier conditions. Foam filters clog faster. Clean or replace mid-season.
- Check wheel height adjusters.** Make sure all 4 wheels are at the same setting. Bumped adjusters cause uneven cuts.

Summer mowing height: 4 INCHES. Set your deck to the highest setting from June through August. Taller grass shades soil, keeps roots cooler, and retains more moisture. Never cut more than 1/3 of the blade height in a single mow.

End of Season (Before Winter Storage)

NOVEMBER

- Run engine until fuel is exhausted** or add fuel stabilizer (follow bottle directions). Stale fuel is the #1 cause of spring no-starts.
- Clean entire mower.** Scrape deck, wash exterior, dry completely. Prevent rust during winter storage.
- Store in dry location.** Out of rain and snow. Cover with a tarp if in an open shed. Moisture = rust + corroded electrical.
- Remove and sharpen blade.** Sharpen to 30 degrees, balance, and store ready for spring. Label the bag: "SHARP, READY".
- Disconnect spark plug wire.** Safety precaution for winter storage. Prevents accidental starts.
- Note anything that needs fixing** (pull cord fraying, wheels wobbling, deck rust). Order parts in winter when you have time.

Final mow of the season: 2.5 inches. Gradually lower your deck over the last 2 to 3 cuts. Short grass going into winter reduces snow mold risk. Drop from 3.5" → 3.0" → 2.5" over 3 mows.

Blade Sharpening Quick Reference

SPEC	STANDARD	NOTES
Angle	30 degrees	Match factory bevel. 25° to 40° range acceptable.
Sharpness	Butter knife	NOT razor sharp. Razor edges roll over on contact and dull faster.
Balance	Level on cone	Check EVERY time. Unbalanced = spindle bearing damage at 3,000 RPM.
Torque	35 to 50 ft-lbs	Use a torque wrench. Google YOUR model for exact spec.
Frequency	Every 20-25 hrs	Minimum: twice per season (spring + mid-summer).
Replace when	1" width lost	Or if bent, deeply chipped, or cracked. Cannot be sharpened back.

Track mowing hours and maintenance automatically.

The Lawn Command Center logs every mow, tracks blade hours, and alerts you when maintenance is due.

bladebosshq.com