

Learning in the Leaves

Bowsaw Safety Card



The Bowsaw:

Use: Used for cutting anything bigger than a two pence piece. It can be used for felling small trees, cutting up woody scrub, pruning branches, and in coppicing, pollarding and hedgelaying.



Blade Cover/Sheath – often made from plastic that clips over the blade

Care and Maintenance:

- The blade should be cleaned and oiled after use and the tool stored somewhere dry (to avoid rusting). It should be stored flat in a large box that can be shut and stored safely.
- It is not possible to sharpen the blades, so they must be discarded when they get blunt. Replacement blades are easily obtainable.
- Over "time" the frame can bend, meaning that the blade is no longer under sufficient tension. Some designs offer an adjustment mechanism.
- Some companies recommend slackening off the blade when their saws are not in use, this reduces bending of the frame, however isn't always convenient.

Use:

- Bowsaw will usually be used by two children at a time. Older children with supervision may develop to using the bowsaw independently.
- When working in a pair; one holding at the hand guard and the other the handle at the opposite end.
- As with most tools, the hand on the tool should not be gloved. The helper hand should have a cut resistant glove on.
- The children should take the respect position, with the raised kneed being opposite to the hand on the tool.
- When making the initial few cuts, each child's helper hand should be placed through the center of the saw and on the wood opposite. This will prevent the blade from jumping onto one of their hands.
- Once the blade has bitten into the wood and formed a groove they are safe to hold the wood adjacent to the saw.

The Bowsaw Tool Talk:

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You need to **PASS** your tool talk:

P = Parts of the tools

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A = Arriving (movement and passing of tools)

S = Safe Use of Tools

S = Storage of Tools

Parts

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This is a bowsaw.

This is the handle.

This is the cover.

I take the cover off like this.

This is the blade.

This is the cutting edge.

When I have finished with the bowsaw I put the cover back on like this.

Arriving

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I stand with the bowsaw like this (Hand at the top of the bow, blade pointing down)

I walk with the bowsaw like this (Hand at the top of the bow, blade pointing down)

I pass the bowsaw like this. (Both hands on the opposite side to the handle, passing the second person the handle)

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Safe Use

When I use the bowsaw I use it two arms and a tools length away from anyone except my partner like this.

I use the bowsaw to cut wood bigger than a two pence piece.

I have bare hands on the tool.

I have a glove on my helper hand.

When I am not using the bowsaw I put it down with the handle facing forwards and the blade facing inwards.

Storage

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When I have finished with the bowsaw I put it in the designated place or in the toolbox provided.

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Well done you **PASS**ed

