

Learning in the Leaves

Billhook Safety Card



The Billhook:

Use: Splitting logs

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handle

blade

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cutting edge

Care and Maintenance:

- Blade should be stored in a sheath.
- Blade should be sharpened with a sharpening stone.
- Stainless steel blades should be kept clean and dry to avoid rust. Often steel blades don't last as long.
- Older tools made from forged steel are often more resilient. Keep the blade clean, and see need oil applied to stop rust.
- Store the Billhook flat.

Use:

- Children should be taught to use the billhook in pairs.
- Older children/adults may develop to independent use, with initial supervision.
- When splitting wood one person should hold the billhook with one hand firmly on the handle and pinching the hook with the other. The blade should be placed at the top of the log to be split.
- The second person will use a mallet or piece of wood to strike the top of the billhook and drive the blade into the wood.
- The partner holding the hook should communicate how hard and how many times the other partner should strike the hook. This process ensures all people are ready and prepared for the strikes.
- This process should be repeated until the wood splits.
- As both partners are working with their hands on tools, gloves shouldn't be worn.

The Billhook 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 Billhook.

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 Billhook I put the cover back on like this.

Arriving

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I stand with the Billhook like this (Billhook in sheath, holding handle with blade pointing backwards and down)

I walk with the Billhook like this (Billhook in sheath, holding handle with blade pointing backwards and down)

I pass the Billhook like this (Both Hands on the sheath, passing the second person the handle)

Safe Use

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

I use the Billhook to split wood.

I have bare hands on the tool.

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

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Storage

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

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Well done you **PASS**ed

