



Tool Maintenance (Unit 5).

It is really important that when using tools with groups, that tools are used for the purpose that they are intended and that they are not abused or used beyond their capability. Clear and safe instruction and supervision around tools will ensure they will be used for years to come. This is just a general guide and it expected that students do their own research and focus on tools that are relevant to their own Forest School.

Tool	Check	Clean and maintain	Storage
Bow saw	Check the tension of the blade and tighten if possible. Look along the length of the blade to ensure it's not bent or damaged. Check along the back edge of the blade for any sharp edges.	Tap off any sawdust after each use. If wet use a cloth to dry wiping away from the teeth. Oil blade if rusty. Replace blade if damaged. Consider using green wood or seasoned wood blade if appropriate.	Stored with a guard. When stored for a long time consider releasing the tension. Store dry in a tool bag/ container.
Pruning (Folding) saw	Ensure locking mechanism is in working order. Look along blade to see if bent.	Tap to remove sawdust from teeth during and after use. Oil if rusty. Some brands will allow for blades to be replaced.	Store dry in a tool box or bag.
Hand brace and bits	Ensure the bit is securely grip by the jaws in the chuck. Check the ratchet is set in the middle position to allow for drill clockwise and anti clockwise. Check bits aren't bent or blunt.	Oil or grease moving parts if rusty or squeaking. Dry with a cloth if wet. Parts can often be replaced if worn or damaged.	Brace stored dry in a tool box/bag. Bits to be stored in a tool roll or container to prevent damage.
Palm drill	Ensure the bit is firmly gripped in the handle. Bits can be blunted over time or if drilled into harder substances such as stone.	Remove dust after use, dry if wet. Bits can be re glued if they become loose using two part glue such as Araldite	Store dry in a bag/box
Loppers/ secateurs	Ensure moving parts/bolts are not loose. Check blade for damage. With secateurs ensure the locking mechanism works.	Blades can be sharpened if damaged or blunt. Oil if rusty and dry with a cloth if wet. Some brands will offer replacement parts at a cost...	Store dry in a tool box/bag
Fire steels	Ensure string is securely attached and the metal rod is	Scrape off protective film when new. Also	Store dry in a bag/box.

	securely held in its handle part.	ensure it's dry when finished using	Dampness will cause the metal to corrode.
Fixed blade knife	Look along the blade to check for any signs of damage. Check the blade is securely attached to the handle.	Ensure dry after use (especially carbon steel). Carbon steel can rust but is generally much easier to sharpen. If oiling a knife to prevent rusting use a food safe oil such as olive oil in case the knife is used for food preparation. Sharpen using sharpening stones and a leather strop. See 'Ray Mears Knife sharpening' on YouTube for a good example.	Store knives dry in a sheath. Preferably in a locked toolbox/bag.