

White Glove Home Inspections Lawn Mowing Tips

Get a great looking lawn *and* save time and energy with some simple lawn mowing tips.

Never mow with a dull blade Check the blade before each use and sharpen after every 10 hours of use. Take the blade to a professional sharpening service once a year and replace the blade as necessary.

Change mowing patterns by mowing north and south one week, then east and west another, then again diagonally and you will reduce compaction of the soil and grass.

Mow only when the grass is dry and cut to a height of 2 to 2-1/2 inches. Keeping the grass a little longer provides a greater surface area to carry out photosynthesis which results in a healthier lawn. The taller grass also prevents most weeds from germinating and therefore reduces the need for herbicides. Also, taller grass grows slower than shorter grass so you can mow less often -- saving gasoline and wear on equipment.

Cut no more than 1/3 of the grass height at each mowing to avoid damaging the lawn. If you skipped a mowing (while on vacation) cut off 1/3 now and another 1/3 in two or three days. Cutting more than 1/3 the height results in slow root growth and weakens the grass plants.

Use your mulching attachment The idea of leaving clippings on the lawn is not new, but today's new mulching mowers make it even easier to leave clippings where they fall. The deck and blade designs allow these mowers to cut each grass blade several times, producing a finely chopped clipping. Leaving clippings where they fall not only saves the labor of collecting and composting them, they help to conserve soil moisture and also reduce the need to add fertilizer because the clippings themselves add nitrogen to the soil as they decompose.

Clean your mower Rinse clippings off your mower after it has cooled to reduce the chance of spreading lawn disease. With the engine running on a flat paved surface, spray a stream of water in front of the right rear wheel (as viewed from the pusher's position). The water will splash into the path of the blade, cleaning out the clippings. When no more clippings come out, stop the water and move the mower to a dry area. Run the engine for a few minutes to dry the housing to prevent it from rusting.