

## **Maintaining and Storing Tools & Equipment**

An important aspect of any business is the maintenance and storage of tools and equipment. The investment in tools and equipment is a significant part of the overhead expenses in any operation. Proper selection and maintenance of equipment are important factors in managing business. Selecting the proper tool for the job and using the tool properly will increase efficiency and reduce maintenance problems. Purchase tools, which are well-made and suited to the intended use. Commercial usage may entail more heavy duty demands on equipment.

### **Hand tools:**

1. Clean dirt and debris from tools after each use.
2. Oil metal parts to prevent rust.
3. Lightly sand rough wooden handles and apply linseed oil.
4. Repair loose handles.
5. Sharpen blades of cutting tools.
6. Store tools in a clean dry storage area.
7. Protect surfaces of cutting tools in storage.

### **Power tools:**

1. Read and follow the maintenance schedule in the owner's manual for each piece of power equipment.
2. Change the oil.
3. Clean the air filter.
4. Lubricate moving parts.
5. Sharpen dull blades or replace worn blades according to the owner's manual.
6. Replace spark plugs.
7. Drain oil and gasoline before long-term storage.
8. Check electric cords and connections on electric-powered tools.
9. Store tools in a clean dry storage area.

### **Equipment:**

1. Store equipment in a clean dry storage area.
2. Rinse and clean spray equipment after each use.
3. Clean spreaders and check wheel-driven gears.
4. Clean carts and wheelbarrows after use.