



Let's Build Something Together™

How To:

USE A STRING TRIMMER

Skill Level: BEGINNER These how-to's are suitable for people who are new to DIY and who have a basic knowledge of tools. If you've painted a room or re-potted a plant, you can probably complete one of these projects by yourself in a few hours or less.

✓ MATERIALS

- String Trimmer (gas or electric)
- Power Source (gasoline, electric cord, electric battery)
- Replacement Parts (as indicated by manufacturer)
- Adjustment Tools (as indicated by manufacturer)
- Ear Protection
- Safety Glasses
- Work Gloves

A fresh cut lawn always gives your landscape a first class look, and a little trimming around the edges can make it look even better. Using a string trimmer around the yard is an easy way to get professional looking results.



PREPARATION

The important first step in using a powered string trimmer is to carefully read the owner's manual. If a copy is not available, visit the manufacturer's website for instructions. Become familiar with the controls, safety features and verify that guards and attachments are properly secured. Selecting a powered string trimmer is relatively easy with the following guidelines. Also, ask a Lowe's associate to assist in choosing a unit that fits your specific needs and budget.



- String trimmers are powered either by gasoline engines or electrical motors.
 - Gas engines are either 4-cycle (larger with more power) or 2-cycle (smaller and easier to handle). They typically have a cutting width of 16-18" and use heavier single-strand monofilament line.
 - Electric-powered string trimmers can be corded (requires an extension cord) or cordless (battery powered). They typically have a cutting width of 12-15" and use 0.080" monofilament line wound onto a spool.
- Replacement parts include air filters, spark plugs or monofilament line or spools. Make sure the replacement spool fits the trimmer brand and model.
- **SAFETY:** For safe operation of a powered string trimmer, wear closed-toe shoes, long sleeves, long pants, gloves, ear protection and safety glasses.
 - The monofilament line on a string trimmer is capable of throwing objects, so make sure the safety guards are in place and everyone stands back when the trimmer is running. Be especially sure that children and pets aren't near the work area.
 - Also, keep the line from making contact with concrete, asphalt, rocks or utility lines, such as landscape lighting wires. Be careful operating a trimmer around plastic lawn sprinkler heads or vent pipes that can be damaged.

IMPORTANT

Before you operate a string lawn trimmer, thoroughly read the manufacturer's operating manual for specific guidance and safety tips. If you have additional questions, contact the manufacturer directly. For general questions on lawn trimmer use and lawn care, discuss the job with a Lowe's associate or call a professional for help.

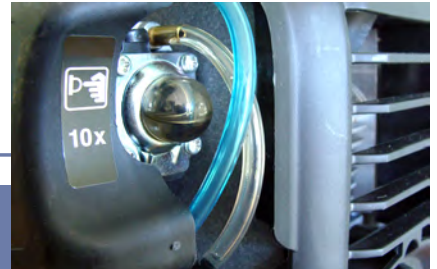


| 01

For more **how-to videos** visit [Lowe's.com/Videos](https://www.lowes.com/Videos)

STRING TRIMMER OPERATION

01 To start a gas-powered string trimmer, slowly pump the primer bulb (as recommended by the manufacturer) to feed fuel to the carburetor.



02 Turn on the choke.

03 Place the trimmer head on the ground, hold the throttle and pull on the starter rope to start. (Some models have an ON button and starter.)

- **TIP:** If the engine doesn't start within 3-5 tries, let it rest for 30 seconds, then pull the rope again.
- Some trimmers use an electric start adaptor: plug in and press the START button.



04 Once the trimmer is running, adjust or turn off the choke.

05 Pick up the unit with your right hand near the throttle and your left hand on the assist handle. Hold the throttle for about 30-60 seconds to let the engine warm up.



06 When cutting, keep the power unit at waist level with the attachment parallel to the ground.

07 Follow the manufacturer's recommendation as to which direction to work the trimmer: from right-to-left or left-to-right. This will depend on which way the trimmer head spins. Most heads spin clockwise, meaning you would work from right-to-left.

- Slowly move the trimmer from side to side or in and out of the cutting area, allowing the tip of the line to do the cutting.
- **TIP:** Don't force the trimmer to make heavy cuts as they can overload the engine. Thicker and tall (over 8") grass should be cut in smaller increments to avoid premature line wear.



08 Keep moving along the lawn edge, cutting to the lawn height.

- **TIP:** Watch ahead to where the trimmer will cut next to make sure it doesn't cut decorative plants or other yard objects.

09 Periodically check the length of the monofilament line.

- Some trimmers have spools with an automatic line feed that uses centrifugal force to advance the line.
- Other trimmers release additional line when the trimmer spool is tapped on the ground or "bumped". (The attachment shield will cut off the excess.)
- Larger trimmers require that the trimmer be stopped to replace shorter, heavier line if it is damaged.
- **TIP:** It's a good idea to have extra line on hand. This can save you a trip to the store in the middle of a job.



STRING TRIMMER OPERATION (cont.)

- 10 Some trimmers can be used as an edger to cut sharp edges around beds or curbs. Turn off the unit, rotate the head (or handles on some units) and use it as a lawn edger. Some units require an edger attachment. Cultivator and hedge trimmer attachments also are available for some models.
- 11 When the trimming job is finished, release the throttle and let the engine idle for a few seconds. Then press and hold the OFF or STOP control switch until the unit completely stops.



STRING TRIMMER CARE

Let the trimmer cool down before storing. To clean the machine, use a brush to remove clippings and debris. Do not spray the unit with water or other cleaners as they may damage it. Store a string trimmer somewhere dry and out of reach of children and possible damage.

Maintenance is an important part of relying on a string trimmer for many years of service. Check the owner's manual for the suggested maintenance schedule. To maintain a gas-powered string trimmer:

- Check the condition of the line, blade or cutting wheel before every use.
- Fill the fuel tank and check the oil before every use.
- Check and refill or replace the cutting line as needed before every use.
- Change the oil (4-cycle engine only) and clean the spark plug arrestor after the first 10 hours of use, then every 25 hours after that.
- Check and re-oil or replace the air filter every 10 hours of operation.
- Check the spark plug condition and verify the gap every 25 hours.



For details, refer to the *String Trimmer Maintenance* video and printable instructions at [Lowes.com/Videos](https://www.lowes.com/Videos).

For more home improvement projects that can enhance the look of your landscape, visit [Lowes.com/Videos](https://www.lowes.com/Videos).

These "How-To's" are provided for informational purposes only. The information contained in Lowe's "How-To" videos is intended to provide general guidance to simplify jobs around the house. Because tools, products, materials, techniques, building codes and local regulations are continually changing, Lowe's assumes no responsibility for the accuracy of the information contained herein and disclaims any liability for omissions, errors or the outcome of any project. It is the responsibility of the viewer to ensure compliance with all applicable laws, rules, codes and regulations for a project. The viewer must always take proper safety precautions and exercise caution when taking on any project. If there is any question or doubt in regards to any element of a project, please consult with a licensed professional.