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How to use a trimmer as an edger

But the technique is the same regardless of the brand of string trimmer that you are using. And I get by with this technique as well. Learning to edge with a string trimmer really isn't that difficult, and is even easier with a dedicated edger, so let's take a look at the differences between trimmers and edgers. Step 3: Edge the Lawn Start edging by holding the trimmer at a 45-degree angle and slowly moving it along the marked area. Shoulder Carry Basically, the shoulder carry is when you hold the string trimmer up where the motor is up around shoulder height. Remember to always follow the manufacturer's instructions and take necessary safety precautions when using your trimmer. You may also need to adjust the trimmer's handle and guard to get the desired angle and clearance. Otherwise you can kick up small rocks and dirt toward your face. Determine where you want to edge and mark the area with a piece of tape or a stick. Should You Use A String Trimmer Or Just Buy An Edger or Edger Attachment? In order for this to work, we need to raise the back end of the string trimmer. Once you've completed the edging, turn off the trimmer and remove any debris or clippings. Rotating Trimmer Head A lot of modern trimmers from RYOBI, EGO, and Greenworks have trimmer heads that rotate. Before I had a rotating head trimmer I used the shoulder carry method to cut and edge with my trimmer. Choosing the Right Trimmer Not all trimmers are created equal, and some are better suited for edging than others. Never trim near children, pets, or bystanders. Why Use a Trimmer as an Edger? If you stick with it you will be surprised how quickly you can master straight edging lines. They cut clean lines and are relatively easy to maneuver around your lawn and landscaping. Shoulder-mounting a string trimmer to use it as an edger does relief a lot of the back pain but you are still using the tool it a manner that is not designed for. This is very easy to do and might be a better solution for you depending on your situation. You should be mindful of what could be in the path of this debris. This will help you stay on track and ensure a clean edge. Keep the trimmer head clean. Hold the trimmer at a 45-degree angle and start edging along the marked area. Unlike traditional edgers, which can be heavy and cumbersome, a trimmer allows you to edge with precision and accuracy. Don't get in a rush as you do this, especially in the beginning when you are learning. As you edge, keep the trimmer head straight and parallel to the ground. You can absolutely maul your yard's edge line if you try to go too fast. You will notice that as you rotate it, the angle of the trimmer head changes. Every string trimmer comes with a shield to deflect grass trimmings and small rocks from shooting up at the user, but you also need to make sure the string is spinning away from you as you work. There is no edge line as clean and distinct as the cut from a dedicated lawn edge tool. If you are interested in learning if the performance and reliability of this brand warrant the cost, read my article titled Are Stihl Trimmers Worth The Money? By following the steps and tips outlined in this article, you can achieve a clean, even edge and keep your lawn looking its best. Q: Can I use my trimmer as an edger on uneven terrain? Finally, lubricate the trimmer's moving parts and store it in a dry, protected area to prevent rust or corrosion. This will help you maintain control and avoid making mistakes. Step 4: Trim the Edges Once you've edged the lawn, use the trimmer to trim the edges. Not keeping the trimmer straight. But some, like the BESTE620 from Black+Decker, have a small wheel (or wheels) so that you can easily roll the angled trimmer along the edge, cutting as you go. This will help prevent the edger from getting clogged and ensure a smooth cutting process. Step 2: Identify the Edging Area Identify the area you want to edge and mark it with a rope or a line. Save yourself the frustration and go with a battery-powered model if you choose to purchase a separate edge tool. Click here to read about the noise-canceling headphones that I use anytime I'm working with loud yard engines. As for technique, however, the shoulder-mount approach can work for either model so long as the shaft length allows for it. It will dig out a crisp line of soil, removing grass and weeds, and prevent them from growing back by uprooting any seeds or roots in the process. I actually own a Black and Decker corded Edger and it sits in my garage collecting dust because it is just too much of a hassle to use. Slow and Steady Cuts the Clean Edge If you want to make make a nice clean edge with a string trimmer then you need to take your time. A string trimmer is more versatile and it was once less piece of equipment to maintain. Adjust the trimmer head to the correct position. That being said, it is still possible to get impressive results using a string trimmer. For the average homeowner, a string trimmer will work perfectly in cutting a decently clean edge in your lawn and landscaped beds. Once the trimmer line has come into contact with the grass, lower the string trimmer so that its bottom trimmer line just touches the ground. One of the most versatile and essential tools in your arsenal is a trimmer. Our goal is to get the trimmer head close to 90 degrees with the surface. Check the blade for any debris or obstructions and sharpen it if necessary. They can handle this task by cutting the weeds and grass with spinning trimming line at high speeds. Remember, slow and steady wins the race. "That speed is easily dangerous enough to cause serious lacerations," he says. Once you are certain of the rotation, you can determine the best direction to hold your trimmer while edging. While edgers are specifically designed for this purpose, you can also use a trimmer as an edger in a pinch. Eventually, I quit using it altogether and simply used my string trimmer. Q: How do I adjust my trimmer for edging? Divide the edging area into smaller sections and complete each one at a time. Common Mistakes to Avoid Here are a few common mistakes to avoid when using a trimmer as an edger: Applying too much pressure. Avoid applying too much pressure and not keeping the trimmer straight. I personally believe this is the best method to edge with a string trimmer for the average homeowner. String trimmers, weed eaters, or weed whackers as they are commonly known, are not considered the best tool for the job when it comes to edging. What you are doing is holding the shaft in your hand and resting your arm in this upward position near your shoulder. Easy to use: A trimmer is lightweight and easy to maneuver, making it a great option for those who are new to edging. Note: Hearing protection is a good idea anytime you are working with gas-engine yard tools but especially when holding one this close to your ear. Edge in small sections and keep the trimmer head clean. (See Also: How To Thread Ryobi Edger) Recap: Choose a trimmer with a string or line trimmer attachment. While this trimming line is great at cutting weeds you can also cut a pretty nice edge on your lawn and landscaped beds. Staying Safe: Avoiding Debris While all string trimmers come with debris shields to protect the operator from rocks and debris being thrown up by the user, edging puts the trimmer at an angle that can more easily throw debris. Tips and Tricks Here are a few tips and tricks to help you get the most out of your trimmer as an edger: Use a slow and steady pace. There are really only two ways to get a clean edge with a string trimmer. How to Use a Trimmer as an Edger: A Step-by-Step Guide When it comes to maintaining your lawn, edging is an essential task to keep your grass looking neat and tidy. This will depend on the type of trimmer you have, so consult the manufacturer's instructions if necessary. In this article, we'll explore the importance of using a trimmer as an edger and provide a step-by-step guide on how to do it effectively. Step 2: Start Edging. It may never overshadow the results of a truly dedicated edger, but it will still give you impressive results with a little practice. It's also a good idea to mow your lawn at a slightly higher height than usual to give the edger a clean surface to work on. Some string trimmers are better suited to this task than others. But there are two important points to note: they do this for a living, and as good as those cuts are, it still is not as perfect as an edger would be. While it's commonly used for trimming grass, a trimmer can also be used as an edger to create clean lines and define different areas of your lawn. My 14-year-old son and I use it just fine for edging. While the position may look awkward it is surprisingly comfortable. This is a little misleading because you generally are not actually resting the trimmer shaft on your shoulder. String trimmers don't have a hard cutting blade like edgers so you need to move slowly and deliberately to cut cleanly. The more you do it the better you will get at it. Additionally, as I stated earlier, simply rotating the weed eater's head will not give you a true 90-degree angle for edging. You will notice that by simply rotating the head over we do not get a true 90-degree angle. I learned how to edge my lawn with a string trimmer out of necessity. Conclusion Learning how to use a string trimmer as an edger really isn't that difficult in the end, but there are things you might want to consider before you use your trimmer or weed eater as an edger. You will notice that this position will put the string at just about the 90-degree angle that we are looking for. Cost-effective: Trimmers are often less expensive than edgers, making them a more affordable option. Additionally, a trimmer is designed to cut grass at a precise angle, making it ideal for creating clean lines and edges. Having the trimmer in this location puts the head at the 90 degree angle that you need for the proper edge cut. If you have a lot of edging to do, say for example a long driveway or extensive landscape beds that need to be edged pretty consistently, it might be best to get a dedicated edger or edger attachment. Back in my days of using gas powered lawn equipment, I had a dedicated lawn edger. When you edge with a string trimmer by turning it on its side you are reducing its built-in ability to protect you from flying debris. I've never had an issue with this to be honest since you aren't actually holding it right next to your ear, it is several inches away. That being said, I have seen many homeowners and a decent number of professionals using trimmers to get the job done just fine. The Stihl KombiSystem that I use weighs around 12 pounds with the trimmer attachment. Apply gentle to moderate pressure, depending on the thickness of the grass. By following the steps outlined in this article, you can easily use a trimmer to edge your lawn and create a beautiful and well-manicured appearance. This can damage the surrounding grass or cause the trimmer to kick back. Take your time, perfect your technique, and don't beat yourself up over a few mauled areas as you are learning. We hope this article has been helpful in showing you how to use a trimmer as an edger. "Edging elevates the look of your lawn, but not everyone knows that a string trimmer is the perfect tool to do it," says Misha Kollontai, who tests them for CR. The dedicated edger found its way to the dump and the string trimmer was used just that much more. You should also wear closed-toe shoes, and long pants as well. The question is should you use a string trimmer to edge or use an edger or edger attachment. By holding the trimmer next to my shoulder I can rest the shaft on my arm and significantly reduce back strain. To adjust your trimmer for edging, you'll need to switch to a narrower cutting attachment and adjust the string or blade to the correct height. I've used the Stihl KombiSystem for years so that's what I'm going to be demonstrating with. While a trimmer can be used to edge thick or overgrown grass, it may not be the most effective or efficient way to do so. This allows precise movement of the string along the edges as well as visual confirmation as you work. Be mindful of this. The trimmer trigger and motor rest in your hand close to your head, so you are going to want to use some hearing protection. Dedicated edgers cut the grass and turf using a steel blade. The key to getting a clean cut is to keep the speed slow enough to allow the trimmer line to move freely through the grass. Step 5: Finish the Job. Hold the trimmer vertically and trim the edges at a 90-degree angle. String Trimmers String trimmers are like the swiss army knife of lawn tools. If you feel that the weight may be an issue, however, read below to ascertain whether you should use your string trimmer to edge or just buy a dedicated lawn edge tool. Also, make sure the trimmer is set to the correct height and angle for edging. Illustration: Rodrigo Damati In addition to cutting tall grass in hard-to-reach spots, your string trimmer can also function as an edger to give your yard a professionally landscaped look. Here are a few of the best string trimmer manufacturers: RYOBI Greenworks EGO SunJoe Edging with a String Trimmer First, hold your trimmer at a 90-degree angle so that trimmer lines spins from top to bottom rather than sideways. This can result in an uneven or wavy edge. "It's usually as easy as holding the tool on its side and making a few quick adjustments." To start, hold your string trimmer at a 90-degree angle so that the line spins top to bottom instead of side to side. Still, be mindful of this. At the same time, it depends on your physical condition and comfort level. Step 4: Make Turns. Typically, this will be around 1-2 inches for most lawns. Cost-effective: A trimmer is a cost-effective option for edging, as it can be used for a variety of tasks and is often less expensive than traditional edgers. If you use a corded model, be mindful that you don't accidentally cut the cord or trip on it while trimming. Conclusion Using a trimmer as an edger may not be the most conventional method, but it can be an effective way to get the job done. (See Also: How To Remove Edger Blade) Conclusion In conclusion, using a trimmer as an edger is a great way to achieve professional-looking results without breaking the bank. Q: Can I use my trimmer as an edger on thick or overgrown grass? When you need to make a turn, slow down and apply gentle pressure to the trimmer. Before using your trimmer as an edger, make sure your lawn is clear of debris, toys, and other obstacles. Editor's Note: This article also appeared in the June 2020 issue of Consumer Reports magazine. You need to raise the back end of the trimmer to get this angle. You should also check the string or blade for damage and replace it if necessary. Use a gentle touch and apply even pressure to avoid damaging the lawn or creating uneven edges. Taking care of your lawn is important to keep it looking neat and tidy. An edger trimmer is the perfect tool to help you maintain your lawn's shape and definition. With this step-by-step guide, you will learn how to use an edger trimmer safely and effectively, from selecting the right blade to turning off the engine. Once you have mastered this tool, you will be able to create a beautiful, well-defined lawn that you can be proud of. Keep reading to get started! Short Answer To use an edger trimmer, start by adjusting the depth of the blade so it matches the height of the grass you want to trim. Then, turn it on and carefully guide it along the edges of the grass, making sure to keep the blade parallel to the ground. When the trimmer reaches the end of the grass, turn off the machine and inspect your work. If necessary, you can go over the edges again to make sure they look neat. Selecting the Right Blade When selecting the right blade for your edger trimmer, it is important to consider the type of grass and the size of your lawn. For example, if you have a smaller lawn, you may only need a basic blade, while larger lawns may require a larger, more powerful blade. Additionally, if you have a type of grass that is more difficult to cut, you may need to select a blade specifically designed for that grass. It is also important to make sure that the blade is properly sharpened and maintained, as a dull blade will not cut as effectively. Finally, make sure that the blade is securely attached to the trimmer before use. Preparing the Trimmer Preparing the trimmer for use is an important step when it comes to keeping your lawn looking neat and tidy. Firstly, you must select the correct blade for the job. Depending on the type of edger trimmer you have, the blades can vary in size and shape. For example, a curved blade is better suited for curved edges, and a straight blade is better for straight edges. Once you have selected the correct blade, its time to prepare the trimmer for use. This includes filling the trimmer with oil and gas, and checking the air filter. Make sure to read the instructions manual that came with your trimmer to ensure you are using the right kind of fuel and oil. Its also important to check the air filter to make sure its not clogged or dirty. Cleaning or replacing the air filter will ensure your trimmer runs smoothly and efficiently. After you have prepared the trimmer, you are ready to start edging the lawn. Starting the Engine Starting the engine of an edger trimmer is the first step in using the tool to maintain a neat and tidy lawn. To begin, make sure the trimmer is filled with the necessary oil and gas, as well as that the air filter is clean. Once all these steps are completed, the engine can be started. To start the engine, begin by placing the trimmer on a flat surface. Make sure the blade is parallel to the ground and the trimmer is in a comfortable position. Then, turn the switch to the on position. The engine should start right away. Once the engine has been started, its important to adjust the settings to the desired level. This will help ensure that the trimmer is running at the correct speed and is using the correct amount of power for the job at hand. The speed and power settings can be adjusted by turning the knob on the side of the trimmer. Its always important to remember to turn off the engine after use. To do this, simply turn the switch to the off position. This will prevent the trimmer from running unnecessarily, as well as help cool it down before storing. Starting the engine of an edger trimmer is an important step in using the tool to maintain a neat and tidy lawn. With the right steps, you can get the trimmer running in no time and start edging your lawn. Adjusting the Controls When using an edger trimmer, it is important to adjust the controls before beginning the job. This will ensure that the trimmer works at the desired setting and provides a neat and tidy result. The controls for an edger trimmer typically include an adjustable speed knob, a switch for switching between edging and trimming modes, and a depth adjustment lever. It is important to adjust these settings according to the job at hand. For example, if the job is to edge the lawn, the speed should be set to a slower speed. The switch should be set to edging mode, and the depth adjustment lever should be set to a shallow depth. If the job is to trim the lawn, the speed should be set to a higher speed, the switch should be set to trimming mode, and the depth adjustment lever should be set to a deeper depth. It is also important to adjust the angle of the blade according to the job at hand. Once the controls are adjusted, the next step is to start the engine. This can be done by pulling the starter cord or by pressing the start button, depending on the type of edger trimmer you are using. After the engine is started, it is important to let it warm up for a few minutes before beginning the job. This will help ensure the engine runs smoothly and efficiently. Edging the Lawn Edging the lawn with an edger trimmer is not difficult, but it does require a bit of precision. First, you'll need to make sure you have the correct blade for the job. This will depend on the type of edging you are doing – for example, some edgers are designed for use on straight edges, while others are better for curved edges. Once you have the right blade, you should prepare the trimmer for use by filling it with oil and gas, and checking the air filter. After that, you're ready to start the engine and adjust the controls to the desired setting. You'll want to make sure the blade is parallel to the ground, and that you are keeping the edger at a steady speed. Begin edging the lawn by guiding the trimmer along the perimeter, making sure to stay close to the edge and keeping the blade at the same height throughout. This will help create a neat and tidy finish. When you are finished, turn off the engine and let the trimmer cool down. Properly using an edger trimmer will help keep your lawn looking neat and tidy, and it's a great way to add a touch of elegance to your outdoor space. With a bit of practice, you'll be able to achieve professional-looking results. Turning Off the Engine When you are finished with your edging, it is important to properly turn off the engine and let the trimmer cool down. This will help protect the engine and extend the life of the trimmer. To do this, first shut off the fuel valve. This will prevent gasoline from draining from the tank into the carburetor. Then, turn off the ignition switch and wait for the engine to come to a complete stop. Once the engine has completely stopped, disconnect the spark plug wire from the spark plug and let the trimmer cool down for at least 10 minutes. This will help prevent any damage to the engine or trimmer. Finally, after the trimmer has cooled down, you can store it in a safe and secure place. Benefits of Properly Using an Edger Trimmer Using an edger trimmer correctly can provide a multitude of benefits for your lawn. Not only will your lawn look neat and tidy, but you will also enjoy the satisfaction of a job well done. Properly using an edger trimmer can also help ensure that your lawn is free of weeds, moss, and uneven grass. Additionally, it can help you create a defined edge along the perimeter of your lawn, which will give it a professional and finished look. Furthermore, using an edger trimmer can help you save time and energy, as it will make the task of edging your lawn much faster and easier than if you were to do it manually. Lastly, using an edger trimmer can help you maintain the health of your lawn, as it will help you keep the grass at a consistent length, which is important for promoting healthy growth. Final Thoughts Using an edger trimmer can be a daunting task, but with the right knowledge and practice, it can be as easy and even enjoyable. By following the step-by-step guide outlined above, you can be confident that you know how to use an edger trimmer correctly. With the proper use of an edger trimmer, you can keep your lawn looking neat and tidy with ease. So what are you waiting for? And always dress appropriately: long pants and closed-toe shoes, gloves, safety goggles or glasses to protect your eyes, and hearing protection. Here are five FAQs related to "How To Use Trimmer As Edger": FAQs: How To Use Trimmer As Edger Q: What is the best way to prepare my lawn for using a trimmer as an edger? Since we decided on rock for our flower bed (we considered pine straw but you may want to read this article if you are considering using pine straw as mulch. Remember to always follow safety precautions and use proper technique to avoid damaging your lawn or injuring yourself. Last Updated on October 2, 2023 by Kyle Whitley String trimmers or weed eaters are great additions to any homeowner's set of outdoor power tools. A trimmer is an excellent tool for edging because it's lightweight, easy to maneuver, and can reach tight spaces. I get by just fine using my weed eater as an edger but I recognize the benefit of having the right tool for the job. There are several factors that you need to consider if you plan to edge with a string trimmer. Preparing Your Trimmer Before you start edging, make sure your trimmer is ready to go: Check the string or line for damage or wear. Here are a few things to consider when choosing a trimmer: Look for a trimmer with a string or line trimmer attachment. If you do need to edge thick grass, make sure to use a slower, more deliberate pace and avoid applying too much pressure, which can damage the trimmer or the lawn. If you use a gas-powered string trimmer, never start the tool in the garage—carbon monoxide can build to dangerous levels quickly, even if the door is open. Depending on what model you are using you can trim, edge, and even blow leaves. Go out there and get edging! When it comes to maintaining your lawn, there are many tools available to help you achieve the perfect look. The tools may look harmless compared with a chainsaw or lawn mower, but string trimmers and other powered grass trimmers can cause injuries resulting from flying debris, like gravel. The good thing about many string trimmers is that you can do both trimming and edging with a single piece of equipment. Since the debris shield is now faced upward the spinning trimmer line could more easily throw the debris away from the trimmer. Multi-purpose tool: Trimmers can be used for a variety of tasks, including trimming, edging, and pruning. When we tested models for how well they edge, many of the less powerful battery trimmers got bogged down by dirt. Edgers are designed to be operated in that orientation and so they are generally more comfortable to use for longer periods. You have to remember that the plastic debris guard is turned up while edging. How to Use a Trimmer as an Edger In this section, we'll provide a step-by-step guide on how to use a trimmer as an edger. Follow these steps to achieve professional-looking results: Step 1: Prepare Your Trimmer Before you start edging, make sure your trimmer is properly prepared. The point is, small rocks and sticks can act like projectiles as they are thrown away by the string. Always when using a string trimmer use eye and ear protection. Edging creates a crisp line, free from grass and weeds, along the edge of a patio or walkway. As a result, I've been on the search for a solid battery-powered edger. For 95% of the life of the edger, it was simply set in my garage waiting to be used. As I said at the onset, this technique works but it will not give you the level of precision that you will get from an actual edger. I found that my back was always aching when trying to edge in this manner. And that holds true for pretty much anything in life. I've even considered going the dual-purpose route with the WORX WG163 which is both a trimmer and an edger and is powered by a 20V lithium-ion battery. If you have a trimmer that has attachment capability, then you can do a whole lot more as well. The edger usually has at least three wheels in the back and a third wheel to act as a guide wheel. The trimmer may have a harder time cutting evenly on slopes or hills, and you may risk damaging the machine or injuring yourself. Before we dive into the step-by-step guide, let's talk about why you might want to use a trimmer as an edger. String Trimmers Vs. Dedicated Edgers Edgers There is no doubt about it, that a dedicated edger is going to cut the best edge in your lawn. Regularly clean the trimmer head to prevent clogging and ensure optimal performance. I've used their powered yard tools for years. I have been using an RYOBI 40V multi attachment capable string trimmer for several years. I have watched lawn care pros using the should-mount edging technique with string trimmers and they can get impressive results. If it's damaged, replace it with a new one. In this article, we'll show you how to use a trimmer as an edger and provide some tips and tricks to get the job done. You can do this by simply turning the trimmer at a 90-degree angle and using the trimmer as an edger. I'm not quite ready to pull the trigger on it though so I make do with what I have. As their primary function, string trimmers, weed eaters, or weed whackers are great at trimming grass and weeds. If you prefer to taper the edges instead of having a 90-degree angle, you can simply rotate the shaft slightly so that the trimmer cuts at roughly a 45-degree angle. Edging with Your Trimmer Now it's time to start edging! Here's a step-by-step guide: Step 1: Identify the Edging Area. If you already own a Stihl trimmer, make sure you understand How To Grease The Gearbox. This will help create a clean and defined edge. It's possible to simply rotate the shaft and edge by holding the trimmer in much the same fashion as you would when weed-eating. The back end of the trimmer is simply resting on your hand. What is important here is that you manage your expectations and remember that you will get better at it with time but it may never quite reach that precision-groomed look that a true lawn edge tool gives. Cutting that clean edge takes some special handling of the nonrotating trimmer or being able to adjust the trimmer head so you can get that 90 degree angle needed to edge a lawn Shoulder Carry Vs. Rotating Trimmer Head To edge a lawn you need to hold the trimmer at a specific angle or the edge will be ragged and uneven. Step 3: Keep the Trimmer Straight. This will help you stay focused and avoid mistakes. If you do need to edge on uneven terrain, make sure to use caution and keep the trimmer moving slowly and steadily. This will help you achieve a clean, even edge. Q: How do I maintain my trimmer after using it as an edger? It's important to acknowledge that the absolute best way to do any project done is to have the right tool for the job. Wear eye protection and always be aware of the direction that the debris is being thrown. The problem is that this technique can result in more back strain. For example, the gas-powered Husqvarna 129C weighs 10 pounds. That's where the next step comes in. These features can make it easier to maneuver the trimmer and reduce fatigue. It will remove grass and weeds without digging up anything else, so there won't be any damage done to your lawn or garden beds. I explained earlier that straight lines take practice but you should be realistic in your expectations. This is because the weed guard is designed to be used in a horizontal, not vertical orientation. It's also a really good idea to wear safety glasses or goggles while doing this. If you try to go too fast, and I can personally attest to this, you can mess up your edge. While it's possible to use a trimmer as an edger on uneven terrain, it's not always recommended. Edge in small sections. (See Also: How To Use The Ego Edger) Make sure the cord or battery is securely attached to the trimmer and the power source. When using a rotating head you don't have to adjust your normal grip or carry when operating the trimmer. Learning how to use a string trimmer as an edger makes the trimmer that much more versatile tool. After using your trimmer as an edger, make sure to clean it thoroughly to remove any debris or clippings that may have accumulated. Let's walk through this process and I will demonstrate exactly how this is done. Note: There is also a significant noise difference between gas and battery trimmers. A string trimmer can do all the edging a homeowner needs to do and also be used for other trimming needs as well. This can cause the trimmer to clog or perform poorly. Well, I guess that depends on how much edging you do. So, what are you waiting for, cut that clean edge and be the envy of the neighborhood. Increased versatility: A trimmer can be used for a variety of tasks, including trimming grass, edging, and pruning. The spinning steel blade cuts some clean lines that will make you the envy of the neighborhood, but is there something better out there to do your edging? When it comes to edging, no tool will give you as true and straight of a cut as an edger. What I do not recommend unless you have very specific circumstances is a corded edger (or trimmer for that matter). Thicker grass may require a more heavy-duty edger or a separate tool altogether. Cost Vs. Benefit Review. Not cleaning the trimmer head. As a rule, you are going to want to be extra mindful of nearby cars, windows, and people since edging with a string trimmer does not provide the same level of debris control as it does when using it for trimming. The edger worked well but that is all it could do. If you find yourself frustrated with the results you are getting, remember that this is a new technique for you and that it will take some time to get good at it. As a result, it is not as ergonomically friendly as just using an actual lawn edge tool. Holding the string trimmer in its normal position, rotate the shaft until the guard is up and you have a clear line of sight to the string. You may have noticed that I use a Stihl trimmer. That could be a battery powered or plugin electric powered edger. String Trimmers generally rotate clockwise but check yours first to be sure. It takes some practice and it'll never truly match the precision of a dedicated edge tool but it can be done. This will help you maintain control and avoid damaging the surrounding grass. You want to move slowly but deliberately along the edge line, careful to stay on your intended path. Prepare your trimmer by checking the string or line and adjusting the trimmer head. Choose a trimmer with a long cord or battery life if you have a large area to edge. For some time now I have had my eye on a battery-powered edger. The results will be the same but electric trimmers do generally offer a weight advantage over gas-powered models. Edging with a string trimmer also eats up the standard trimmer line quickly, since you might be hitting dirt and concrete while trying to get that nice edge. And their thick nylon cutting lines spin at up to 10,000 rpm, notes Don Huber, CR's director of product safety. Benefits of Using a Trimmer as an Edger There are several benefits to using a trimmer as an edger, including: Improved accuracy: A trimmer allows you to edge with precision and accuracy, making it easier to create clean lines and edges. Here are a few reasons: Convenience: If you don't have an edger or prefer not to use one, a trimmer can be a convenient alternative. This will give you more freedom to move around without having to stop and recharge. While this may help to prevent some debris from flying directly up, it sure doesn't stop it from shooting out to the side. Make sure any cars, windows, or breakables are in the way of the debris path. Best way to edge a lawn with a string trimmer: The most effective way of edging with a trimmer is by turning the trimmer on its side with the string spinning away from you and placing the shaft on your shoulder. You can absolutely edge with a string trimmer. You'll also need to take a few safety precautions. Because of this, we need to make sure that debris is directed away from you. Lower the spinning line until it just comes into contact with the soil and grass along the edge of your walkway. Consider a trimmer with an adjustable handle or ergonomic grip. These are designed for trimming and edging and are typically more effective than brush cutters or other types of trimmers. A rotating head puts the trimmer head in the correct 90-degree angle so that you can get a good clean cut. The shoulder carry method is generally how you will see commercial landscapers edge with a string trimmer since most of the trimmers used by professional landscapers are dedicated straight shaft string trimmers. Be mindful with gas-engine trimmers that you do not put the engine too close to your head so as to avoid burns. It is great to be able to use the trimmer for double duty as a trimmer and edger. Compare that to the WORX WG163 20V battery-powered trimmer that weighs just 5.3 pounds. A rotating head also allows you to conserve energy since you don't need to adjust your grip while using your trimmer so you can move at a slower pace and get the clean-cut you need.

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