Husqvarna

Fact sheet #1

How to file a saw chain

Let's first look at what you need to know about saw chain. Irrespective of the brand of saw you use, there are a couple of "must do's".

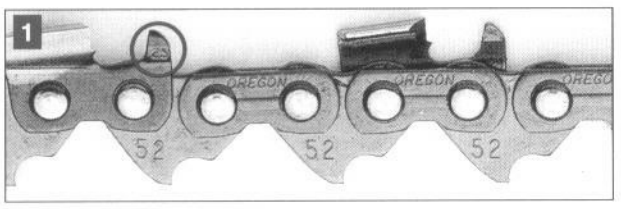
You **must** carefully read the Operator's Manual for your saw and maintain the chain, guide bar and sprocket for safe and efficient cutting.

Saw chain is designed to cut wood. Never allow your chain to cut through a log into dirt and sand.

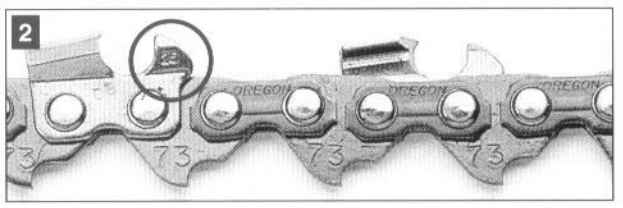
A chainsaw with a well maintained chain requires very little pressure to cut efficiently.

Types of saw chain

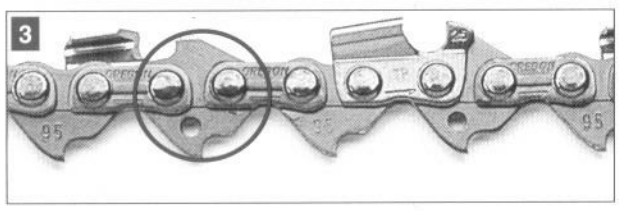
Saw chains are available in many different designs – shown above



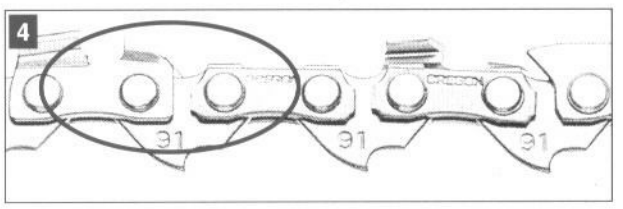
Saw chain without kickback protection



Saw chain with improved kickback protection



Low kickback saw chain



Low kickback saw chain (casual user)

are just a few examples. Caution. No saw chain design completely eliminates the danger of kickback. As with any cutting implement, it's the saw chain that does the work. A sharp chain cuts faster, more easily, more safely, and saves time, fuel and effort. Sharpening the chain is the key.

Top tip #1
Always give the chain a touch up file every time you fill the tank. As a general rule, just 3 or 4 strokes on each cutter will keep the chain at its peak.

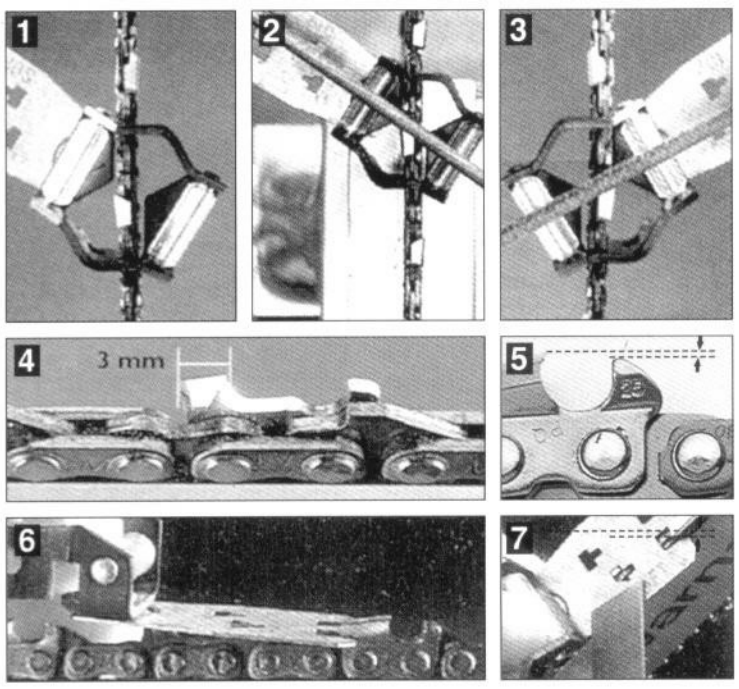
You can do it – it's really quite simple

While you can have your chain sharpened at your local servicing dealer, you can, with a little practice, do it yourself.

Here is what you will need

1. Flat file with handle
2. Round file with handle
3. Combined file gauge for the cutting teeth, with depth gauge.
These are readily available from your Husqvarna servicing dealer.

Top tip #2
Use of the correct files is important. Always use files developed for use with saw chain. It pays off in the long run.



Follow these simple steps

The cutting teeth

With the saw secured in a clamp to hold it still, place the gauge on the chain as shown (pic 1). The arrows on the gauge must point in the cutting direction of the chain. Rest the round file on the gauge rollers (pic 2) and file on the "push" stroke, working from the inside edge to the outer edge. Do all the cutting teeth on one side before turning the gauge and filing the opposite side (pic 3). Note: Be sure to keep cutter tooth lengths the same size and never file a chain so that the teeth are shorter than 3 mm (pic 4).

The depth control

The difference in height between the cutting teeth and depth control (pic 5) is the chain's "bite". Periodic filing of the depth control maintains the gap between the top of the cutting edge and top of the depth control. When the height and angle of the depth control is correctly adjusted, cutting is made easier and safer.

The depth control should be set higher for cutting hardwoods compared with softwoods. Start by positioning the gauge as shown in pic 6, using the "S" gauge if you're cutting softwoods and "H" for hardwoods. Using the flat file, file the depth control level with the gauge (pic 7).

Tips from the pros

Always file damaged cutters to remove damage and restore a clean line of chrome on the edge. Maintain the angles recommended by the manufacturer and maintain the correct depth gauge setting for peak performance.

Blunt, damaged and inaccurately maintained cutters, plus low and inaccurate depth gauge settings are major contributors to:

- Abnormal wear in chain, bar and sprockets
- Poor air filtration
- Poor engine performance
- Increase in vibrations and overloading of cutting components including clutch and engine
- Most importantly, increases risk of kickback

And remember, ask your servicing dealer for advice if you're not sure about any aspect of the saw chain or machine performance. Keep your cutting safe and quick.