

CobraHead® Long Handle

Thank you for purchasing the CobraHead® Long Handle! Here at CobraHead we practice sustainable gardening and we promote sustainable living and business practices. We make our garden tools with this in mind.

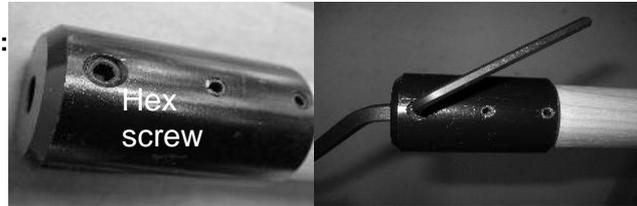
IMPORTANT! Please read through this sheet to help you get the most out of your tool.

The CobraHead® Long Handle is an exceptionally useful tool for gardening and agriculture. Properly used and cared for, it will last many years.

The CobraHead® Long Handle – Product Information:

The tool has three basic parts:

Blade
Locking collar
Handle



Wrench in
hex screw.

Blade in
collar.

Blade - The blade may have a disposable plastic protector. **Remove plastic carefully as the blade is quite sharp!** If this plastic is missing it does not affect anything. We wrap the blade in paper when the plastic gets knocked off.

The blade can take a lot of abuse, and is quite tough for its thinness, but **the blade is not unbreakable**. The tool's effectiveness is specifically due to the blade design. We use the term "steel fingernail[®]" to describe the blade. It works like a knife in cutting the soil and lifting out weeds. Just like a knife, it is possible to bend the blade, chip the edge, or snap the blade end if the tool is driven into rocks or used to pry up tree roots. You might also bend the blade if you put all your weight on the tip. So push off the wood end, not the blade end if you're using the tool as a cane or walking stick.

The blade is purposely made as a replaceable item. If you break it, re-order another one from us. It is very easy to replace, and you do not have to replace the whole tool.

The blade is held in place with a set screw. It is possible the screw can work loose. If the blade becomes loose or falls out, use the 5/32" hexagon wrench supplied with the tool, or any 5/32 hex wrench, to re-set it. Make sure the screw is tightened against a flat edge of the blade, not against a corner of the blade shaft. **Lock the screw tightly to prevent the blade from working loose.**

The steel of the blade has self-sharpening properties. It will keep a sharp edge as it slices through soil and normally will not need sharpening. It is easy to sharpen, however, should it be nicked or become dull.

Sharpen as you would a knife or other fine cutting tool. Use a stone, or a very fine file. Use the rib along the back side of the blade as a guide for the blade bevel. Push the stone outward from the rib to the edge of the blade and follow up with flat strokes across the bottom, flat edge. The blade does not need to be razor sharp to be effective.

Locking collar – The collar is a round piece of steel drilled out to accept the blade and handle. It is held onto the handle with two locking roll pins.

Handle – The wood handle is North Carolina ash. It is held in place by two expanding locking pins. Should you break the handle it is replaceable. The pins have to be driven out with a punch. If you are capable of doing this, contact CobraHead and we can supply a new handle and locking pins. Otherwise, the collar can be returned to CobraHead. We can mount a new handle for you. Handle breakage should be a very rare occurrence.

The handle is varnished. Keep it clean and dry to maintain the finish.

Using the CobraHead® Long Handle

We suggest you always wear gloves when working with this tool. We also remind you that gardening and agricultural injuries are quite possible due to both repetitive motion and the jarring action of swinging the tool into the soil. This is a common occurrence with gardeners and agricultural workers whether with this tool or others. Don't overdo it! Change from right handed to left handed action frequently, take breaks, and stretch often.

The locking collar may seem to make the blade end of the tool slightly heavy, but the tool has weight for a purpose. Without the weight, the tool would bounce off hard soil and sod, instead of cutting into it. Use the weight of the tool to do the work, and you will soon realize the necessity of the weighted end.

Just remember that the blade is a "steel fingernail[®]". Think of having a long, strong and sharp fingernail at the end of the handle. It is an extremely valuable tool for weed control, garden maintenance, and cultivation.

Weeding – There are several actions for weeding. You will develop your own technique after you start working, but it is possible to pull out whole weeds intact with the root system depending on the size of the weed and the softness of the soil. To do this, drive the blade into the ground just behind the bulkiest part of the root and pull toward you. Keep a little soil between the roots and the blade. The soil will act as a cushion to help you from snapping off the roots. With practice you will develop the ability to pull out clumped roots, tap roots, and runner roots.

For major weeding projects, we highly recommend using this tool in conjunction with a good garden fork and the original CobraHead[®] short handled tool. With these three tools you should be able to tackle most weeding situations

Scalping is a very effective method of weed control. Scalping is cutting off smaller roots at or below ground level. Small weeds will be killed by this. Larger weeds may have enough root left to put out new leaves, but frequent scalping will kill almost any weed. Scalping is best accomplished by using a sweeping action and using the side edge of the blade to do the cutting.

Cultivating – The CobraHead[®] Long Handle is a most useful cultivating tool. Its blade will work just like a small plow and it will work in tough soils. It will even work in wet soils.

Wet soil will stick to the blade and decrease its effectiveness. Clean off wet soil and clay build-up on the blade as it occurs.

When cultivating, digging, or edging with the tool - "less is more". Do not take huge bites when you first start. Let the weight of the tool do the work and don't drive the tool deep into the soil, initially, until you have loosened it up. Again, you'll develop your own favorite techniques, but practice letting the weight of the tool drive the blade into the soil. You can cut prairie sod with this tool, but take shallow bites to start.

Remember that the blade is a "steel fingernail[®]". If the job you are doing requires a mattock or a backhoe, then use those tools!

Raking – while one might think the little blade would not make a useful rake, we suggest you try it for de-thatching and cleaning out old growth. We use it to move piles of wet, soggy leaves with which we mulch our beds. We use it to move soil along our raised bed edges, and we use it in our compost pile.

Edging/Trenching – The sharp edge of the CobraHead blade makes it an ideal edging tool. It is also a good tool for making a shallow trench.

Warranty – We offer a limited one year warranty on workmanship and parts. We will replace, repair, or refund purchase price of any tool within one year of date of purchase.

We will cover manufacturing defects or breakage for the locking collar, set screw, locking pins, blade, and handle for one year. Repair, replacement or refund at our option. Shipping costs not included.

Replacement parts are available from:

CobraHead LLC
W9545 Hwy. 18
Cambridge, WI 53523

866-962-6272 – toll free
608-423-4884 - fax
info@cobrahead.com – e-mail

www.cobrahead.com

If you like the CobraHead[®] Long Handle please let your gardening friends know that it's out there. We are a very small company without the advertising resources of big corporations. Your good word is better than any advertisement in letting people know that this useful tool is available.

Thanks! Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions, comments and suggestions.