



Hedge Trimmer Buying Guide

Hedge trimmer/cutter Buying Guide

Hedge trimmers can be used to trim and prune hedges and shrubs, making light work of keeping your hedges and bushes tidy.

What you need to know before selecting your hedge trimmer

Power – hedge trimmers can be electric, rechargeable battery or petrol powered.

Battery - powered hedge trimmers are very portable and therefore convenient and have low noise levels. They suit smaller hedge areas. Running time is approximately 30 minutes before batteries need to be recharged.

Electric - mains powered hedge trimmers have similar characteristics to the battery-powered versions. Although they are less portable because of the electric cord, they have the added benefit of unlimited run time.

Petrol - powered hedge trimmers are very convenient to use as there is no power cord. They are better suited to larger areas and heavier duty cutting where extra power is needed. They are extremely hard wearing machines, but tend to be heavier (if you have a high hedge to cut this may be a limitation) and noisier than other versions. You can now purchase long reach hedge trimmers which offer the ability to trim high and deep hedges safely from the ground.

Blades – the longer the blade, the more area it will cover with one pass. For small hedges use a blade that is 46cm long or less; for medium hedges use a blade 47-56cm long and for big hedges use a blade that is 57cm or longer. The wider the gap between the blades/teeth, the thicker the branch that the hedge trimmer will cut.





Additional features to take into account

Clippings collector – one make is available on the market that will collect hedge clippings.

Double position trimmers – these have an adjustment allowing the handle to be set at a right angle to the blade so that you can cut along the top of a high hedge from a standing position without the need for a step ladder.

Hand guard – ensure your trimmer has a hand guard to protect against the blades and flying debris.

Automatic brake – ensure your trimmer has a blade brake so the blades will stop immediately when you release the trigger.

Safety - wear protective footwear and safety goggles when using your trimmer. Ensure that your electric socket has RCD protection.