

# Handling Instructions

WOOD HANDLES ON TOOLS NEED REGULAR CARE OR THEY'LL ROT, DRY OUT OR SPLINTER.



PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT FOR TOOLS THAT GET A HEAVY DUTY WORKOUT: SHOVELS, PICKS, SLEDGE HAMMERS, ADZES AND AXES.

WHEN IT COMES TO PM FOR HANDLES, YOU'VE GOT TWO CHOICES: PAINT THE HANDLE OR RUB IT WITH LINSEED OIL.

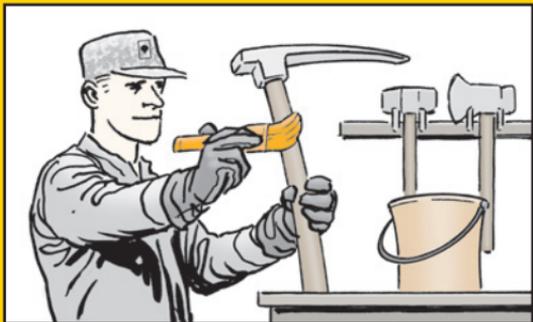


## Paint

If a tool is stored outside, paint the handle to protect it against the weather.

Follow local SOP for paint color. Usually it's the same as the vehicle's basic color but not in a camouflage pattern.

When the paint starts to chip and bare wood shows, strip the handle and repaint it.



## Linseed Oil

If a tool is stored inside, rub the handle with linseed oil to prevent drying, cracking and splintering. NSN 8010-00-152-3245 gets you a gallon of linseed oil. When the handle starts to feel dry, rub it with oil again.

And here's a tip to tighten a loose wooden handle: Soak the portion of the handle installed in the tool head overnight in kerosene or antifreeze. Soaking will swell the wood and make the handle tight.

