



Greenplant.

Plant, Tool & Event Hire

BECOME A DIY MASTER

THE 12 MOST USED TOOLS

*AND HOW TO OPERATE THEM
SAFELY & EFFICIENTLY*

GREENPLANT, 2025

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INTRODUCTION

Whether you're building for a living or just getting stuck into a weekend project, knowing how to use your hired tools the right way saves time, money and stress.

This guide gives you pro-level tips for getting the most out of 12 essential tools safely, efficiently and without the guesswork. Plus, you'll find smart pairings at the end to help you work smarter, not harder.

⚠ Always read full safety instructions and wear proper PPE (available at Greenplant) when operating hired tools. Ask us if you're unsure — we're here to help.

ABOUT GREENPLANT

Established in 2001, Greenplant is your local, friendly plant and tool hire shop in Oxfordshire and Bucks. Enjoy a wide range of high-quality brands at affordable prices with depots in Banbury, Oxford and High Wycombe.

Greenplant pride ourselves on elite customers service and excellent products. So when you hire with us, you're in safe hands.

1 VIBRATING PLATE

AKA WACKER PLATE



Used for: Flattening and compressing soil, sand, gravel and sub-base before laying patios or driveways.

🔧 Top Tip: Use in straight, overlapping passes. Moistening the ground lightly beforehand improves compaction.

⚠️ Safety: Wear steel-toe boots, gloves, hearing protection. Keep hands clear of vibration plate.

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CEMENT MIXER



Used for: Mixing sand, cement and water for mortar or concrete jobs

⚠️ Top Tip: Load dry materials before water. Clean drum immediately after use with fresh water.

⚠️ Safety: Never insert hands into the drum while operating. Keep mixer stable and on level ground.

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BREAKER



Used for: Breaking concrete, old paving, bricks, and asphalt.

🔧 Top Tip: Let the tool do the work — don't push down too hard. Use the chisel at a slight angle for best results.

⚠️ Safety: Use gloves, goggles, boots and ear defenders. Watch for kickback.

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GARDEN STRIMMER



Used for: Clearing thick grass, brambles and weeds.

🔧 Top Tip: Use sweeping side-to-side motions, keeping a consistent angle.

[More tips here](#)

⚠️ Safety: Face guard or visor is essential. Always check surroundings for hidden rocks or wires.

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CHAINSAW



Used for: Cutting through logs, timber and thick branches.

 **Top Tip:** Start on a stable surface. Let chain reach full speed before making contact.

 **Safety:** Chainsaw PPE (trousers, helmet, gloves) is non-negotiable. Read safety card fully.

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SMALL EXCAVATOR



Used for: Excavation, trenching, and levelling ground.

 **Top Tip:** Practice with the controls before starting. Dig from the edge of your area inwards.

 **Safety:** Never carry passengers. Check for overhead and underground hazards

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HEDGE TRIMMER



Used for: Shaping and cutting hedges.

🔧 Top Tip: Cut sides before the top. Work from bottom up to avoid damaging foliage.

⚠️ Safety: Use with both hands. Watch cord position on electric models.

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TOWER SCAFFOLD



Used for: Safe elevated work (painting, guttering, cladding).

 **Top Tip:** Assemble on level ground. Always lock wheels before climbing.

 **Safety:** Guardrails and toe boards must be used. Don't lean or overload.

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DIESEL SPACE HEATER



Used for: Heating workshops, garages, and site tents.

 **Top Tip:** Use in well-ventilated areas only.
Position away from flammable materials

 **Safety:** Check fuel tank and exhaust regularly.
Never use indoors without airflow.

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FLOOR SANDER



Used for: Sanding wooden floors smooth for finishing.

🔧 Top Tip: Start in the centre of the room, then work outward. Keep the machine moving to avoid gouging

⚠️ Safety: Dust mask and goggles required. Check floors for nails first.

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ANGLE GRINDER



Used for: Cutting, grinding and polishing metal, stone or tile.

🔧Top Tip: Let disc reach full speed before engaging material. Use a steady hand – don't rush cuts.

⚠️Safety: Wear goggles, gloves and long sleeves. Sparks can fly further than expected.

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MITRE SAW / CHOP SAW



Used for: Precision cuts on timber, plastic, or light metals.

🔧 Top Tip: Use clamps or hold materials firmly.
Let blade stop fully before lifting.

⚠️ Safety: Keep fingers clear of blade path. Use dust extraction if available.

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WINNING COMBINATIONS

All these tools are great on their own, but combining them with others makes for light work. Below is our recommendations to help get your projects done with less stress on your back, and your back pocket.

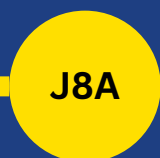
Job	Tool Combinations
Patio Laying	Cement Mixer + Vibrating Plate
Garden Clearance	Strimmer + Chainsaw + Trimmer
Shed Build	Mitre Saw + Tower Scaffold

HELP IS A CALL AWAY

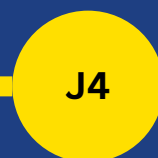
Our depot staff are all seasoned pros, we'll help you pick the right kit every time. Call us or head to one of our depots to get your projects off the ground!



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