



Tip of the Week

Fall maintenance tip: don't forget the mower!

Before putting your lawn mower to bed for the winter, do some strategic maintenance that will protect the engine and other parts over the winter. Next spring, when it's time to mow again, you'll be glad you followed this quick checklist.



- **Safety first:** disconnect the spark plug wire from the spark plug before beginning any maintenance.
- **Drain the gas** because gas left in the tank can cause serious damage to the lawn mower **OR** instead of draining the gas,
- **Add a fuel stabilizer** specifically made for lawn mowers. Fuel stabilizers offer two major advantages: (1) you don't have to worry about properly disposing of gas drained from the mower because the gas remains in the tank; and (2) stabilizers offer winter-long protection by keeping parts in the carburetor from drying out and becoming brittle. That prolongs mower life and reduces repair costs.
- **Replace** the spark plug in your mower.
- **Replace** the air filter.
- **Change** the oil.
- **Sharpen** the blade. A dull blade is not only makes your mower work harder (more wear and tear), but can harm the grass and detract from its appearance. Now your mower is ready for spring!

Another time-saving tip: While you've got your tools out, perform the same basic maintenance steps on the snow thrower.

*Need help with your fall landscape needs? Go to www.alcc.com and click on **Find a Pro**.*

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