

# The Complete Guide To Buying A New Or Replacement **LAWN MOWER**

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**Updated For 2023**



**Easy Lawn Mowing**

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# The Complete Guide To Buying A Lawn Mower

## How To Choose The Perfect Lawn Mower For Your Needs

A lawn mower is a tool that most people own. At some point you'll either need to buy your first lawn mower or update your current one. With these machines always changing and new features being added, it can feel a little overwhelming when it comes to choosing the right lawn mower for you.

With various types of power, different sizes and a whole host of seemingly complex features, it's not hard to see why buyers end up confused. But when you break it down, things don't seem so complicated.

In this comprehensive guide, I'm going to walk you through everything you'll need to consider when buying a lawn mower to take the stress out of making this purchase.

It's really important to take several things into account when buying a mower as certain features can affect how easy and convenient the tool is to use, not to mention the cost. By the end of this guide, you should feel confident in choosing the perfect lawn mower for your needs.



## Understanding The Different Types Of Lawn Mowers

One of the first things I always urge people to think about is the type of lawn mower they need. When I say this, I'm talking about the way the mower is powered and there are a variety of options.

While you may already have a specific type in mind, it's important to consider whether this is merely something you like the idea of, or whether it's a viable option for you and your garden. Below, I'll share with you an outline of each type, as well as the pros and cons.

### The Rotary Lawn Mower

There are two main types of lawn mowers in terms of how the blades move, with the most common being the rotary lawn mower. As the name suggests, a rotary lawn mower has a blade, or blades that rotate and these can come in cordless, corded and petrol models.

The alternative to this type of blade movement is the cylinder mower. However, I'm going to cover this as a separate type later in the guide.



Rotary blades need to be sharp in order to provide a clean and precise cut of the grass. They can be easily sharpened and when required, are low cost and easy to replace.

Which is best? Well cylinder mowers will provide a precise, clean and low cut as the blades continually sharpen themselves through its scissor like cutting method. This is why bowling greens and establishments like Wimbledon will only ever use a rotary mower. However, for domestic use and for lawns that do not have a full time grounds person, rotary blades are more than sufficient, and in many cases more suitable, at providing a well-manicured lawn that will be the envy of your neighbours.

## Corded Electric Lawn Mowers

Corded electric lawn mowers are incredibly common and that's largely because of how easy and convenient they are to use. One of the main reasons they're such a popular choice is because of their excellent value for money.

However, you have to consider that the cord can be restricting. For starters, you may find that the cord gets in the way while you are mowing, and it can take some practice to move this out of the way.

What's more, most corded mowers come with a 10-metre power cable which means these machines probably aren't the best choice if you have a larger lawn. You could use an extension cable but again, this means more wires in the way and inconvenience.



On the other hand, corded mowers are often incredibly compact and easy to store so, for most homeowners, this is a massive benefit.

If you've ever attempted to start a petrol mower, then you'll know that this can often be tricky. However, with a corded electric model, it's simply a case of plug in and mow. Of course, they also don't have the same level of power as a petrol mower, so aren't ideal if you're trying to tackle very dense or out of control grass. If you're looking for something easy to use in your everyday garden maintenance, electric mowers are by far one of the best options.

## Pros and Cons of Corded Electric Lawn Mowers

Pros	Cons
Great value for money	Power cord limits freedom of movement
Easy to operate and start	Not suitable for large lawns
Continuous power unlike cordless and petrol	Not as powerful as petrol
Perfect for small to medium sized lawns	Can't be used in remote locations i.e. allotment
Lightweight and compact	Only 1 self-propelled model available
Low maintenance and running costs	



### Further Reading: -

[Best Electric Lawn Mowers](#)

[Electric And Cordless Lawn Mower Maintenance](#)

[Best Electric Mower For A Striped Lawn \(Rear Roller\)](#)

## Cordless Lawn Mowers

A cordless lawn mower works in a very similar manner to a corded model in that the features are very much the same and both types are powered by electric. The main difference with a cordless mower is the lack of a power cable. Instead, the mower runs on rechargeable lithium-ion batteries.

The main advantage of this is that you have far greater freedom of movement and no pesky cables getting in the way. However, you will end up paying slightly more for this privilege. Still, the mower will be compact, portable, low maintenance and easy to use, albeit slightly heavier owing to the presence of the batteries.



With many manufacturers the batteries can be shared across a range of power tools including grass trimmers, hedge trimmers, leaf blowers etc. This means that you have the option of purchasing the cordless lawn mower with no batteries (bare tool), if you already have a battery and charger available. This will save significantly on the cost when purchasing.

While I'd usually recommend a cordless lawn mower to someone with a small to medium lawn, there is the option to use them on a larger lawn. This does involve buying higher amp hour or additional batteries to ensure you've got enough juice to get around the whole garden, but cordless is certainly something worth considering if you want a low maintenance machine that allows you to whizz around your lawn in no time. All of my reviews on the easylawnmowing.co.uk website will provide you with the run-time of the mower along with all other features.

## Pros and Cons of Cordless Lawn Mowers

Pros	Cons
Ability to power share batteries with other tools from the same manufacturer	Must ensure battery is sufficiently charged before mowing
Lightweight, compact, clean and easy to start	In general, not as powerful as petrol
Quick and convenient for a quick mow, even in remote locations	Batteries will need to be replaced on average every 4-5 years
Ideal for small to medium gardens, with large options available	A little more expensive than a corded electric mower
Option to buy additional and higher rated batteries for longer run-times	
Easy to use and great freedom of movement	
Low maintenance	

### **Further Reading: -**

[Best Cordless Lawn Mowers](#)

["Ready to Go Cordless? 8 Crucial Questions to Ask Before Choosing a Lawn Mower"](#)

[Best Cordless Lawn Mower for a Striped Lawn Finish](#)

[5 Of The Best Value Cordless Mowers To Buy Right Now](#)

[Best Self-Propelled Cordless Lawn Mower](#)

[Electric And Cordless Lawn Mower Maintenance](#)

## **Petrol Lawn Mowers**

Petrol lawn mowers are the most powerful type and are ideal if you have a large garden, rough terrain or are facing a challenging cut. One of the most important things to consider when buying a petrol lawn mower is that these machines require significantly more maintenance.

Since they operate using a combustion engine, this will require regular servicing. On top of this, there is the potential for things to go wrong from time to time so you will need to stay on top of repairs. These are typically minor things like spark plug replacements or installing new air filters but it's maintenance, nonetheless. Having said that, modern petrol mowers have come a long way and are far more reliable and easier to start. There are even options for electric start, which means a simple push of a button and you are good to go with your petrol mower.



Petrol lawn mowers are also a lot heavier but there are those that come with a self-propelled drive and variable speed. This essentially means that all you need to do is steer it, in the direction you want to mow, and the engine will spur the mower forwards. I'd recommend this type of petrol lawn mower for those with larger gardens, steep inclines, uneven lawns or anyone who doesn't want to have to overexert themselves due to the weight of the machine.

If your lawn has a lot of uneven or bumpy ground, slopes or hills then a petrol mower is going to make the terrain so much easier to handle. These are robust machines that are built for a challenge and what's more, when properly taken care of, they'll last a very long time.

## Pros and Cons of Petrol Lawn Mowers

Pros	Cons
Ideal for large lawns	Not as environmentally friendly (noise, fumes)
Great on bumpy or sloped terrain	Heavier than electric and cordless
Powerful options with many features available	Maintenance is required
You're not restricted by power cables	Recoil start can be tricky, unless electric start option is purchased
Self-propelled options with variable speed available	
Great for striped lawns, due to the heavy weight	
Superior build quality with metal decks	

### Further Reading: -

[Best Petrol Lawn Mowers](#)

[Best Petrol Mulching Lawn Mower](#)

[Best Petrol Lawn Mower For Lawn Stripes](#)

[10 Simple Steps to Maintaining Your Petrol Lawn Mower](#)

[Petrol vs Cordless Lawn Mower – Which Is Best?](#)

## Cylinder Lawn Mowers

Have you ever looked at a bowling green and thought '*I'd love a lawn like that?*' If so, then a cylinder mower might be the right choice for you. That said, there's one thing I'd urge you to keep in mind and that's that cylinder mowers do require a little more patience and effort to use.

The term cylinder mower refers to the way that the blades are arranged. Instead of a rotating blade like other models, these mowers have a spiral arrangement, and the blades use more of a scissor-like action when cutting.

If you're going to opt for this type of lawn mower, then it's vital that you're prepared for more regular mowing. That's because a cylinder mower isn't very good at cutting long or thick grass. If your lawn is a little dense after winter, then you'll probably need to go in with a regular lawn mower first and then finish it with your cylinder mower.

I'd also only recommend these mowers if your lawn is flat and even. They don't cope well over bumps or rough areas and, if you try to cut damp grass, you'll find that the results aren't great.

While these mowers are slightly more expensive than a similar rotary mower, the finish you get is unbeatable. If you want an extremely short luxurious result, then a cylinder mower is likely be the right choice for you. It is also worth noting that there are very few models available for domestic use, unless of course you want to opt for a manual push mower.





## Pros and Cons of Cylinder Lawn Mowers

Pros	Cons
Very short and precise cut	Not great for damp or wet grass
Ideal for a luxurious very low cut finish	Blades require maintenance in order to be kept sharp.
Self-propelled petrol models available	Very few domestic models available
	Can't be used on uneven lawns due to scalping
	Regular mowing is required

### Further Reading: -

[Cylinder Mowers vs Rotary Mowers, which to choose?](#)

## Robotic Lawn Mowers

A robotic lawn mower is a brilliant option if you don't want to do the hard work of mowing yourself. Of course, you're going to end up paying more for this privilege, but if you lead a busy lifestyle and want an easy way to maintain your lawn then this might be something worth investing in.

Robotic lawn mowers are exactly what you might imagine them to be. They run on rechargeable batteries and automatically mow your lawn according to the schedule you set using the compatible app or on-board controls.

There are tons of robotic lawn mowers to choose from, each with its own set of features so it's worth reading my additional guides on these for more information.



These mowers aren't suitable for long grass so you may need to prepare your lawn before you start using one. However, once it's programmed, the robot will randomly cut the grass on a daily basis, keeping it neat and tidy over the course of the mowing season.

Robotic mowers really provide a hands-off approach to cutting your lawn, as they will automatically return to base to recharge before setting up again.

I would keep in mind that these mowers aren't great on very bumpy lawns although some models are able to tackle inclines and multiple zones. What's more, while there are usually in app features to prevent the mower from bumping into obstacles, you will need to make sure that things like toys are kept off the grass.

Robotic mowers do not collect the cuttings, but instead mulch them into tiny pieces and return to the soil. This is the best and healthiest way of cutting your lawn, as it provides much needed nutrients and moisture on a daily basis. Not only do modern robotic mowers have a whole host of safety and anti-theft features, allowing them to provide years of trouble free service, but their mulching cutting method ensures a healthy and great looking lawn.

## Pros and Cons of Robotic Lawn Mowers

Pros	Cons
Great for busy people who want to save time	More expensive than other types of battery mower
Runs automatically with very little input from the user once set up	Initial installation of boundary wire is required
Comes with features like anti-theft, rain sensors, collision prevention and much more	Some models have trouble cutting to the edge of the lawn
Quiet operation for night-time use	
Can be used in multiple zones	
Can be controlled and configured when away from home via the app (most models)	
Low running costs	

### **Further Reading: -**

[Best Robotic Lawn Mowers](#)

[9 Reasons Why You Should Buy A Robotic Lawn Mower](#)

[The Best Robotic Lawn Mowers For Small Lawns](#)

[How Do Robotic Mowers Work?](#)

## Hover Lawn Mowers

Hover mowers are another incredibly popular type with the leading manufacturer being Flymo. These are typically corded electric models that work by hovering over a cushion of air above the grass. The main benefit of this is that a hover mower is incredibly easy to move around. If you struggle with physical difficulties, this is perhaps the most viable option after a robot lawn mower.

A hover mower is typically an affordable option although you don't get a lot of the features you might see on a corded or cordless mower, such as rear roller, self-propulsion etc.



If your garden is sloped or uneven then the lightweight design of these floating mowers can make cutting the grass a lot easier. That said, I wouldn't usually recommend them for larger lawns.

## Pros and Cons of Hover Lawn Mowers

Pros	Cons
Lightweight	Not ideal for large lawns
Easy to use	Less precise cut than other rotary mowers
Perfect for uneven or sloped gardens	Fewer mowing features than other types of mowers
Good value for money	Generally, only corded models available
Compact, great for space saving in storage	

### Further Reading: -

[Best Hover Lawn Mowers](#)

[Hover Mowers vs Rotary Mowers](#)

## Manual Push Lawn Mowers

As you can probably tell from the name, these are manual lawn mowers that are powered by the user. No petrol, no electric, no battery; just your good old physical force. However, I wouldn't necessarily recommend one as a replacement for your powered lawn mower. Instead, these mowers are a great complementary tool that you can use between mows to maintain a tidy-looking lawn.

Push mowers, sometimes called reel mowers are lightweight, compact and easy to use as long as you're comfortable pushing them around. The modern models are a lot easier to move than the old-fashioned versions that I'm sure many of you reading this have nightmarish memories of.

The problem with manual push mowers is that they're not suitable for bumpy or uneven terrain. But when used on a level and well maintained lawn will give a really precise and professional finish. But, as with a cylinder mower, they don't work fantastically well with long grass, so you'll need to make sure you don't give it too much of a challenge.

## Pros and Cons of Manual Push Lawn Mowers

Pros	Cons
Affordable	May be difficult for some users depending on physical strength and stamina
Delivers a very precise cut	Cannot be used on long grass
Eco-friendly	Not ideal on uneven ground
Low noise compared to powered mowers	Usually don't have a grass catcher
Gives you a workout	
Improves grass health through a cleaner cut	
Portable and no power required, so can be used in remote locations	

### Further Reading: -

[Best Push Manual Lawn Mower](#)

[The Best Way To Mow Your Lawn – Do It Right](#)



## Ride-On Lawn Mowers

Do you have a very large garden? If so, the types of lawn mowers I have discussed so far might mean that mowing takes far longer than it should. In this case, I'd recommend getting a ride-on mower.

Naturally, being bigger and more powerful, the cost of these lawn mowers is significantly greater than other types. However, when properly cared for, it's a machine that'll stand the test of time so should be seen as an investment.

There are three main types of ride-on mower including the zero-turn mower, rear engine riding mowers and lawn tractors.

- Lawn tractors are the most common type and are ideal for big lawns that include several inclines thanks to their wide turning radius. The engine is located at the front of the mower.
- Zero turn mowers move much more quickly so get the job done in no time. As their name suggests, they have a much tighter turning radius so are perfect where there are tight spots or obstacles.
- Rear engine ride-on mowers have, as you may imagine, an engine at the rear which is located underneath the seat. They're the most compact of all ride-on mowers and allow for easier storage. That said, this also means their cutting width is smaller so mowing can take slightly longer.

### Pros and Cons of Ride-On Lawn Mowers

Pros	Cons
Great for large lawns due to wide cutting width	Higher initial investment
Very minimal user effort required	Maintenance levels are around the same as a petrol mower
Fast and reliable	Higher running costs such as more fuel
Can be used to tow other accessories like a trailer	Not all types are suitable for inclines
	Less precise cut
	Storage space required

**Further Reading: -**

[Best Ride-On Lawn Mower](#)

## Choosing The Right Lawn Mower Based On Features

Now that you better understand the various power types of lawn mower on offer, it's time to consider some of the other features. It's important to keep in mind that not all mowers have the same features, so it pays to take a closer look at each potential model. Next, I'm going to talk about some of the various features you will find and whether they'll benefit you.

## Mowing Modes

Depending on your needs, you may need one of several different mowing modes that are regularly seen on the modern lawn mower. However, it's important to keep in mind that not all mowers will be equipped with all mowing features.

Most lawn mowers come as either a mulching mower or a cut and collect; many have both of these functions. There is also the option of a side or rear discharge chute, but I'll discuss all of these in the upcoming sections.

### Mulching

There are some people that swear by mulching and others that remain indifferent to it. There's something of a debate over whether mulching is the best option or not, but the general consensus is that it's usually the best choice. However, you should avoid mulching and bag your clippings in the following instances:

- Where the grass is very long or wet
- Where there is a lot of leaf or debris coverage (some mulching mowers have the capacity to mulch leaves, but they're not designed for a lot of leaf coverage)
- When you're looking to prevent weeds spreading (if your lawn already has weeds)

For all other situations, using a mulching mower or a lawn mower that comes with a mulching plug will benefit the health of your grass.



Mulching means that the grass clippings are not merely cut and disposed of. Instead, the clippings are circulated around the mower deck in a whirlwind, therefore being finely cut up by the blades. Only then are they released, and they'll land back onto the lawn delivering nutrients like nitrogen and potassium, boosting the health of your lawn, and reducing the need to use fertiliser. Note that many people don't want to use chemical fertilisers owing to the impact on the environment, so this is a more eco-friendly solution.

Some lawn mowers are designed only for mulching, so you'll need to use this option every time. However, there are lots of 2 in 1, 3 in 1 and 4 in 1 mowers that come with a mulching plug. This is fitted into the back of the lawn mower, with the grass catcher removed, preventing the clippings from being discharged out the back.

#### **Further Reading: -**

[The Benefits of Mulching Lawn Mowers – Complete Guide](#)  
[Best Mulching Lawn Mower](#)

## Side and Rear Discharge

Some, but not all lawn mowers, come with a rear and/or side discharge chute. The idea of these chutes is that the grass clippings are not sent to a grass catcher as they would be when using cut and collect, nor are they finely chopped up as they would be when mulching. Instead, the clippings are expelled from the chute and land in lines along the lawn.



A rear discharge chute gives you the benefit of not firing lawn clippings along walkways and other obstacles, so there's less need to plan your mowing route as you would when using a side discharge chute. However, the clippings come out of the back so you may end up walking through them which means things can get messy.

Before the invention of the modern lawn mower, the grass clippings would have been disposed of directly onto the lawn. However, this option isn't as popular anymore purely for the mess factor. Plus, you have the added work of raking away the clippings and let's face it, most of us just don't have the time for that!

### **Further Reading: -**

[Best Petrol Mower with Side and Rear Discharge](#)

## Cut and Collect

Cut and collect, sometimes called bagging, is one of the most common ways of disposing of your grass clippings. Most modern mowers have this feature, and it offers convenience to the homeowner.



The grass clippings are sucked through an opening at the back of the lawn mower and into either a collection bag or box. There are also hybrid grass catchers which give you the benefit of both of these. A box is more durable and sturdier, but a fabric grass catcher is far easier to store, provides better air circulation and compaction of the cuttings.

The main and most obvious benefit of using this mowing method is that you aren't faced with having to clear up clippings. When the grass catcher is full, simply remove it and tip the contents into your green recycling or onto the compost. You could even use them as mulch for your plants.



One thing I would suggest that you keep in mind is that different mowers come with different sized grass catchers. This is largely in line with the overall size of the mower and the cutting width, but it's worth making sure these go hand in hand. For example, if you've got a huge 52 cm lawn mower with a 40 litre grass catcher, you're going to find that you have to stop and empty it incredibly frequently.

That said, you also don't want a ginormous grass box that's a nightmare to move when it's full. Go for something with a balance. I'd also recommend choosing a grass catcher that has a full indicator. This usually comes in the form of a flap that moves as air passes through it. Once the grass catcher is full and airflow is restricted, the flap remains still so you know it's time to empty.



#### **Further Reading: -**

[Best Lawn Mower for Cutting Damp or Wet Grass](#)

[The Best Way to Cut Your Grass](#)

## **Practical Features**

Mowing the lawn should not be something that gives you a headache. Modern mowers are designed to make the job as easy and painless as possible. This is why you'll often find a wealth of practical features. While you might not need all of them, you'll almost certainly find that you'll benefit from a few.

### **Inset Wheels/Cut To Edge**

If you're cutting the lawn as part of a plethora of weekend chores, then the last thing you want is to have to get other tools involved. Still, I see no end of people using an inadequate lawn mower that doesn't cut right to the edge of the lawn. This means that they then have to take out the trimmer to finish things off.

To avoid this, I'd recommend looking for a mower with inset wheels. What this essentially means is that you are able to get the lawn mower much closer to obstacles and to the edge of the lawn.

If you have a lot of walls, fences, ornamental features, or footpaths on and around your lawn then this is something that I think is well worth considering.

### **Grass Combs**

One of the major problems that a lot of homeowners complain about is that their lawn mower doesn't cut evenly. A lot of this is to do with the fact that not all of the grass blades are pointing up ready to be cut. This is even worse when you're trying to cut along the edges.

But this is where a lawn mower with grass combs is invaluable. These grass combs do exactly what you would imagine and lift the blades of grass into the path of the mower blade for even cutting. If you're in a hurry to get a neatly cut uniform lawn on the first pass, then this is a feature I would strongly recommend.

It's not something you see on all mowers, but I am noticing that more and more manufacturers are including this, so it's definitely something to keep your eye out for.

### Adjustable and Ergonomic Handles

When I talk to people about lawn mowers, it's not very often that someone asks me questions about the mower's handles. Most people want to know about power, mowing functions and other things to do with actually cutting the grass.

But the importance of ergonomic and practical handles cannot be understated. In fact, it's a feature that I often recommend looking out for when choosing a mower.

Firstly, you need to look at the adjustability of the handle. Nobody wants to be hunched over using a handle that's far too low for them. Similarly, if you're shorter, you don't want to have your arms in an unnatural position if the handle is too high. With an adjustable handle, you can alter the setting to make mowing more comfortable. Believe me; your back will thank you in the long run!

You'll also want to look at the overall design of the handle. Ask yourself how comfortable it will be to use and, where possible, try out the lawn mower before committing to it. Most mowers have some kind of grip or padding on the handles, and this makes them a lot nicer to use as well as giving you more control when turning and guiding the machine.

In most cases, you'll find that any controls are located within easy reach of the handle, but this is still something I'd check. The last thing you want is to have to stretch or reach just to turn the lawn mower on or off.

Some ergonomically designed handles will have up to 4 start stop buttons, to allow you to position your hands in the best location to suit your posture. Only one of the buttons needs to be held on for the mower to operate. This again makes it easier for turning both left and right handed turns.

### Further Reading: -

[What Lawn Mower Should You Buy?](#)

### Safety Features

Lawn mowers are incredibly common household tools and when they're used according to the manufacturer's instructions, there's no reason that they wouldn't be safe. That said, you're dealing with a powered piece of equipment that has blades so naturally, there is room for accidents and danger.

It is therefore hugely important that you read your manufacturer's guide **before** attempting to use the tool.



While I can provide you with safety features to look out for, this isn't a guide on the safe operation of every mower on the market. There may be slight differences in how features are meant to be used, so it's essential to familiarise yourself with the equipment first.

However, when you're shopping for a lawn mower, the following are some of the most important safety features.

### **Handle Lever**

On the handle of all lawn mowers, there is an operator lever. This must be held in place in order for the lawn mower motor to run. They're usually installed parallel to the main handle, so it's not uncomfortable to hold them in place. When the handle is released, the mower, regardless of power, will automatically stop to prevent accidents, however some mower blades will stop faster than others.



On cordless and electric corded models there is an additional button that must be pressed first before the mower's engine will start, this prevents the mower from being started accidentally.

### **Blade-Brake Clutch System**

If you need to stop the blades on a petrol mower i.e. to turn the mower, travel across a path or have the blades stop for a few moments then this can often require you to turn off the entire machine. That's just a pain, in my opinion, so I like to look for petrol lawn mowers that have a blade-brake clutch system which allows you to disengage the blade temporarily without the need to switch off the engine.

### **Appropriate Protective Clothing**

You might not think so, but mowing can be a dangerous activity without the proper safety features. I have read numerous stories in the media about people ending up with all kinds of debris being thrown up at them, sometimes this may result in injuries.

Most mowers are designed from debris flying up from under the mower, however there are some additional precautions you can take with regards to your own protection. I would always recommend wearing safety glasses, suitable heavy duty non slip footwear and long trousers. When using a petrol mower, ear defenders are also highly recommended particularly for longer mowing sessions. Safety glasses and ear defenders can be purchased very cheaply from Amazon.

In addition, I would still strongly recommend checking the lawn for any debris such as stones, screws, wire, small toys, and anything else that may get lost among the blade of grass. It's also a good idea to keep children and pets away from the area when mowing just as an added safety precaution.



## Safety Features On A Cordless Mower

Cordless lawn mowers are among some of the newest types of lawn mowers on the market. The attention to safety is really quite impressive in some of the modern models, but not all are equipped with the same features.

I would highly recommend going for a cordless lawn mower with a safety key. This is a simple plastic key that has to be inserted and turned on in order for the battery to power the motor. The beauty of this is that there is no risk of a child accidentally turning on the lawn mower so it's a brilliant option for the family home.



However, it's pretty easy to lose the safety key and when this happens, you won't be able to use your machine. For this reason, I would recommend looking for lawn mowers that come with more than one safety key or that you can buy replacements for.

On a cordless lawn mower, you will notice that there is also a safety button. You need to press this before using the operator lever otherwise the motor won't fire up. If you happen to let go of the lever at any point during the mow, you will need to press the safety button again to start. This can feel like a bit of a pain but it's an important feature that improves the safe use of the machine. You'll also find this on a corded electric lawn mower.

## Safety Features On A Robotic Mower

Out of all the different types of lawn mowers, I hear people worrying about robotic mowers the most. Being such new inventions, many people are concerned about their safe use as well as whether they're worth buying with the risk of theft.

### Anti-Theft

Let me start by saying that pretty much every robot lawn mower I have seen has some kind of anti-theft system. Because you're going to be leaving the mower unattended, the chance of theft would be very high without this system. While systems may vary, some of the most common features include things like a PIN, GPS and alarms. You might even purchase one that can be blacklisted in the event it is stolen. This is a well known fact amongst thieves, and therefore theft of robotic mowers is very uncommon.



### Further Reading: -

[Are Robot Lawn Mowers Safe?](#)

## Perimeter Wires

What's to say that your robot lawn mower can't just tootle off down the street? Well, the good news is that these mowers come with a perimeter wire which is installed around the lawn before the first use.

These wires are installed at ground level and are hooked up digitally to the mower, often via an app. This tells the mower not to leave the marked area. What's more, these wires can be used to map out where there may be obstacles, preventing your mower from bumping into them.



## Collision Sensors

Now onto the safe use of your robotic lawn mower. Even if you have children or pets, you can still make the most out of these innovative machines. That's because many of them come with collision sensors, so there's no need to worry that they'll go running into anyone or anything. These sensors cause the mower to stop and change its path.

Some of the more modern models use technology that allows them to "see" the obstacle before bumping into it, therefore avoiding any contact.

## Lift And Tilt Sensors

Imagine that your child picked up your robotic lawn mower out of curiosity. Without some kind of safety feature in place, there would be a risk of injury from the blades. But this isn't a concern as all robot lawn mowers have a lift and tilt sensor that disables the blades should the mower be picked up or turned over.

## Blade Safety

The blades on a robotic lawn mower are incredibly sharp and do a brilliant job at cutting. However, the individual blades probably won't do much damage on their own. But should they all come into contact with an object, there would be a risk that the blades would cause damage if it weren't for a safety feature that forces them backwards when they hit an object. This is useful if there is a risk of items being left on the lawn such as small toys.

## Further Reading: -

[What is a Robotic Lawn Mower & Why Should You Buy One?](#)

## Other Features To Consider

There are so many other things to think about when it comes to buying a lawn mower. It often surprises people when I talk them through the various features and things to think about, but it quickly becomes apparent as to why they're so important. So, with that in mind, here are a few miscellaneous factors to keep in mind.

## Power Output

Even once you have chosen the right type of power for your lawn mower, you'll need to consider just how powerful that particular model is and whether it'll be suitable for your garden.



## Petrol

If you've opted for a petrol lawn mower, then you'll notice that the engine is referred to in cubic centimetres or CC. This is the same system as measuring the engine on a car or motorbike, but a lawn mower engine won't be quite as powerful.

Generally speaking, the average petrol lawn mower will be somewhere between 140 cc and 190 cc. The higher the cc, the more powerful the engine will be. If you're looking for a lawn mower that'll handle tough or challenging conditions, then you'll need to go for something with more oomph. Similarly, when cutting wet grass, anything with too low a power output just isn't going to get the job done.



## Electric and Cordless

Electric mowers are among some of the most common domestic garden tools and their power is measured in watts or W. The system works in just the same way as a petrol lawn mower with the power increasing as the watts go up. Models range from 900 W on a smaller deck to 1600 W on a large deck up to 38 cm.

If you have a larger garden, then I'd advise going for an electric mower with a more powerful engine as this will help to meet the challenge.

When you buy a cordless lawn mower, you'll not only need to think about the power of the motor but also how the battery performs. In most cases, you'll get two batteries which means you can be charging one while using the other. Some models will allow both batteries to be used simultaneously increasing the overall power. The main benefit of this is that you can still mow a bigger lawn without having to stop halfway and wait for the battery to recharge.



You'll notice that the battery measurement is given in volts which tells you how powerful the battery is. But there's also some information given in Ah, for example 2.5Ah, 4.0Ah or 5.0Ah. This refers to the ampere-hours and gives you an idea of how long the battery will run before needing a recharge.

Again, the higher the number, the better the performance will be so, if you're looking to buy a mower for a medium to large garden, you'll want something with a higher Ah rating for longer run-times. The voltage of the battery determines the power, therefore the higher the voltage the more cutting power the mower will have.

Also keep in mind that cordless mower batteries are now predominantly lithium-ion, which are more powerful, provide longer run-times, are lightweight with quicker charge times compared to the old battery technology.



Regardless of the type of battery you have, it isn't going to last forever. At some point you will need to change it but if you've got a lithium-ion battery then that's not something you'll typically need to worry about for a good three to four years.

Finally, I'd consider how long the battery takes to charge. In most cases, you'll be looking at between 60 and 120 minutes for a full charge. But if you're in a hurry then there are some cordless lawn mowers that come with fast chargers, allowing you to boost the power by up to 80% in as little as 40 minutes.



As mentioned above, look out for other tools that you can share the battery with, such as hedge trimmers, grass trimmers, leaf blowers etc. Some manufacturers such as Makita, Ryobi, Bosch provide a wide range of tools that can be power shared, just make sure they are from the same range and compatible.

### **Power Drive Control**

Hopefully, you'll always find yourself with favourable mowing conditions but let's face it, in the UK, the weather is far from predictable. So, if you come to mow your lawn on a Saturday morning only to find it has rained the night before then you wouldn't be able to use most types of mower.

However, on some petrol lawn mowers there is a feature known as power drive control that adjusts the speed of the motor at the same time as increasing torque. The benefit of this is that the mower is able to power through even in wet or challenging conditions.

This feature can be found on some higher end cordless models, where the power is increased when the going gets tougher. This also helps to increase the run-time of the battery.

### **Cable Length**

When you buy an electric lawn mower, you'll usually find that it comes with a 10-metre power cable. Now, don't get me wrong, there are some that are longer and others that don't give you anywhere near as much reach. The important thing is to think about the size of your garden, how many power points you have and how compatible that cord will be.

In many cases, unless you have a very compact garden, you'll probably need to hook up an extension cable. But do keep in mind that, for safety, it's not recommended to use an extension that's any more than 30 metres.

### **Petrol Tank Capacity**

When you're using a higher cc engine, this is naturally going to demand more power which means higher fuel consumption. This is something to keep in mind when buying a petrol lawn mower especially if you've opted for a more powerful model.

But regardless of the engine size, I'd still recommend checking out the size of the petrol tank because the last thing you want is to have to keep stopping to top up the fuel. That said, it's not often that you'll come across a lawn mower whose petrol tank doesn't hold at least enough fuel for one trip around the garden.

## Self-Propelled Drive

A lot of petrol mowers and, more recently, cordless lawn mowers come with a self-propelled drive. This is essentially a system that drives the mower forward to save you from having to push it. You may think it sounds a bit lazy but try pushing a hefty petrol mower around a large garden for an hour and I'm sure you'll change your mind!

If your lawn is on the large size, has a lot of inclines or has more challenging terrain then you'll thank yourself for choosing a mower with a self-propelled drive.



This is also a fantastic option for people whose mobility or strength isn't as good. This feature could mean the difference between independently mowing your lawn and relying on someone else to do it for you, so it's well worth considering even if it will up the cost of the machine.

Believe it or not, there is also a corded electric self-propelled model available.

In addition, to being self-propelled there are some higher end petrol and cordless models that allow you to adjust the speed of the drive, this is referred to as variable speed. This is a great feature as some owners prefer to adjust the speed of the mower to suit their walking pace / lawn conditions.

### **Further Reading: -**

[Best Self-Propelled Cordless Lawn Mower](#)

[Best Self-Propelled Petrol Lawn Mowers](#)

## Starter Type

Earlier, I talked about the starter lever that must be engaged by the operator in order to start an electric lawn mower. These are very easy to use and are one of the reasons that a lot of people choose an electric model. They may come in different forms such as levers or switches, but they generally do the same thing and they do it with ease.



However, if you're familiar with petrol lawn mowers, you may have experienced the frustration of trying to get the thing going. That's because these lawn mowers are notoriously difficult to fire up. Modern manufacturers are coming up with ways to ensure your petrol mower gets started first time, every time, but there is a choice of starter mechanism with some being more user-friendly than others.

- Recoil starters are what have been used on petrol mowers for years and are seen as a traditional design. There is a cord attached to the lawn mower which the user must pull in order to fire up the engine. When



pulling the cord, you won't have any success unless you pull it hard, and you pull it quickly. This is where a lot of people find it challenging, not to mention it can put you under a lot of physical strain.

- To remove the problems associated with recoil start, many mower manufacturers are now opting for an electric starter. Quite simply, the mower doesn't rely on your force to get started but electricity which makes it much easier, especially if you're new to using a petrol mower. This does mean however that your petrol mower will need to carry an additional small battery.
- Some of the more expensive petrol lawn mowers come with an electric starter key. Not only does this make life a lot easier but it also ensures better security.

If you do opt for a petrol mower that has an electric start option, then you will always have the recoil start as a back-up should the electric start fail.

**Further Reading: -**

[Best Electric Start Petrol Mower](#)

**Rear Roller**

Some lawn mowers come with a rear roller but it's also possible to buy a roller kit to upgrade your existing mower. But why would you want a roller in the first place?

Well, it's all about creating that perfectly manicured lawn with a bowling green appearance. These rollers are located on the underside of the mower at the back and push the grass down as you mow. It's important to mow in rows to get the striped effect and it's all to do with how the sunlight reflects off the bent blades of grass.



If you do like the idea of a striped lawn, then this is the only way you're going to achieve that. There are two types of lawn mowers that have the ability to create lawn stripes -

- The first is a four wheeled mower that has an additional rear roller that is spring loaded. The spring pushes the roller down onto the lawn, creating the striped appearance.
- The second is a two wheeled mower with a dedicated rear roller. The weight of the lawn mower pushes down on the roller again creating the striped lawn appearance.

With this in mind, the heavier the mower the more defined and long-lasting stripes are produced. Therefore, petrol mowers with a dedicated rear roller are by far going to produce the best results.

Another benefit of having a rear roller is that it's a lot easier to cut to the edge of the lawn as the roller creates stability. Imagine you are mowing along a flowerbed; without the roller the mower would scalp the edge.

**Further Reading: -**

[Best Electric Lawn Mower For A Striped Lawn](#)

[Best Petrol Lawn Mower For A Striped Lawn](#)

[Best Cordless Lawn Mower for a Striped Lawn](#)



# What Is The Best Type Of Lawn Mower For Me And My Garden?

Understanding the various features of the lawn mower is of key importance when it comes to purchasing. However, it can be easy to see a lawn mower with all the mod cons and buy it because it seems exciting.

But you have to ask yourself whether you really “*need*” all of these features or whether it will be overkill.

Before settling on a particular model, I’d encourage you to think about the following things. Keep in mind that different users and different lawns have varying requirements. Where one mower might suit me down to the ground, it might be a terrible choice for you.

## Lawn Size

One of the first things I tell people to think about when choosing a lawn mower is how big their lawn is. You’re not going to buy a ride-on mower if you’ve got a small patch of grass. Similarly, you’d find it almost impossible to mow a couple of acres with a push or corded electric mower. These are extreme examples but the type of lawn mower you use can have a real impact on how easy (or difficult) it is to mow.

As a rule of thumb, the most appropriate types of mower for different sized lawns can be seen in the table below-

Lawn Size	Square Metres	Best Type Of Lawn Mower
Small	Up to 150	Hover mower Electric / cordless rotary mower Cylinder mower
Medium	Between 150 and 300	Cordless rotary mower Robotic mower Cylinder mower
Large	More than 300	Petrol rotary mower Ride-on mower Robotic mower

## Cut Quality

I know some people that are very particular about the way they want their lawn to look. If this sounds like you then looking at the cut quality is going to be one of the most important deciding factors when buying a lawn mower.

For example, cylinder mowers will give a much more manicured appearance, but you will have to put in more time and effort. Still, if gardening is something you enjoy, this likely won’t be a problem. On the flip side, if you want a good cut quality with a lot of power then a rotary petrol mower will deliver on this as well as being a lot less effort than something like a cylinder.

There are, of course, homeowners that simply want a tool that allows them to keep their grass neat and trimmed. In this case, cut quality won’t be such a big deal and something like a cordless or electric mower will be more than sufficient. While you might not get quite the same degree of precision and uniformity, these mowers will leave your lawn looking well maintained with very little effort from you.

## Cutting Width

When you shop for a lawn mower, you may have noticed that the size of the mower is given in centimetres (inches if you live in the USA.) This doesn't refer to the overall size of the mower but the cutting width.

What is the cutting width, I hear you cry?! This tells you how much lawn the blades will cover in one pass. For example, if you have a 34 cm mower then with each pass, the blades will cut a 34 cm width of lawn. This is sometimes referred to as the cutting diameter.



I've seen one too many people go for the biggest cutting width they can find but this isn't always the best option. Again, it pays to think about the size of your lawn because using something massive in a very small space can make the mower much more difficult to manoeuvre. By the same token, if you were to choose a very small cutting width for a large lawn, you'll be working for much longer than necessary.

When looking at the cutting width, you should also make sure that the lawn mower will fit into the narrowest part of your garden and will be able to move around any obstacles on the lawn.

I've put the most appropriately sized mowing decks compared to lawn size in the table below.

### Petrol Lawn Sizes to Lawn Mower Deck Guide

Size of lawn	Square metres (Square Feet)	Deck Size
Small lawn	Up to 500m <sup>2</sup> (5,400 Sq. Ft.)	Up to 42cm (16.5")
Medium lawn	500m <sup>2</sup> to 1000m <sup>2</sup> (5,400 to 10,800 Sq. Ft.)	39cm to 45cm (16" to 18")
Large lawn	1000m <sup>2</sup> to 1500m <sup>2</sup> (10,800 to 16,200 Sq. Ft.)	45cm to 53cm (18" to 21")

### Cordless & Electric Corded Lawn Sizes to Lawn Mower Deck Guide

Size of lawn	Square metres (Square Feet)	Deck Size
Small lawn	Less than 200m <sup>2</sup> (2200 Sq. Ft.)	30cm to 34cm (12" to 14")
Medium lawn	200m <sup>2</sup> to 350m <sup>2</sup> (2200 to 3800 Sq. Ft.)	34cm to 40cm (14" to 16")
Large lawn	350m <sup>2</sup> + (3800 Sq. Ft. +)	Over 40cm (Over 16")

## Cutting Height

It's really easy to assume that one can go out into the garden at the beginning of spring and cut the grass as short as possible. But this is extremely detrimental to the health of your lawn and should be avoided. What you should do instead is remove just a third of the existing length and then gradually reduce the cutting height over the course of the mowing season.

But how can you do this if your lawn mower doesn't have a range of cutting height settings?



This is why it's really important to see how many settings there are and whether they're in keeping with your grass. Different types of grass should be cut to different lengths and other factors can affect your cutting height choice such as the current weather, how often you intend to mow and the style of lawn (functional or decorative.)

Most modern lawn mowers have between four and six cutting height settings which is more than enough for most domestic situations. However, for those with more diverse needs, there are some that have up to eight and they're usually measured in cm or mm.

What I'd also check when looking at the cutting height is how easy it is to change. On some models, you're required to adjust each wheel which involves a lot of messing around. Most modern lawn mowers feature a single lever that lifts or lowers the entire machine in one go and it takes mere seconds.

## Manoeuvrability

I talked a bit about manoeuvrability in the previous section about cutting width. If your mower is too big for the space, then this is going to make it a lot trickier to move around. But this isn't the only factor to consider here.

The weight of your lawn mower is going to play a significant role in how easily it moves around. Hover mowers are among some of the easiest to manoeuvre as well as being incredibly lightweight. I'd recommend these for smaller lawns when you just want to whizz around and get the job done.



Petrol lawn mowers are at the other end of the scale in terms of weight, and some can be immensely heavy. In this case, I would strongly recommend choosing a mower with a self-propelled drive as this is going to make manoeuvring it so much simpler.



In the middle are corded and cordless mowers which are neither very heavy nor very light. There are some cordless models that have self-propelled drive, and many have an option to adjust the speed to suit your walking speed which makes life so much easier when guiding them around.

Having larger wheels at the rear of the mower can also make manoeuvrability that much easier.

## Price

What is good value for money and what is affordable in terms of a mower will vary greatly depending on the buyer. Some people don't think twice about going into the thousands when buying a lawn mower whereas others want to get as much bang for their buck as possible.

The good news is that it is more than possible to get your hands on a decent lawn mower with a fair range of features for a couple of hundred pounds. I'd say that anything between £150 and £350 for a cordless lawn mower would be acceptable. Although if you want to spend a little less then go for something with a cord and you might get it as cheap as £100.

Hover mowers are among the most affordable powered models but if you really want to save money then get a manual push mower. Of course, this does come with other considerations such as the size of your lawn.

If you have a very big lawn, then you may just have to bite the bullet and invest in something bigger and more powerful. But for those with just a small patch of grass, there's really no need to spend a small fortune.

Petrol lawn mowers can get pretty expensive with prices averaging between £300 and £700. Although I've seen some of the higher end models that cost well into the thousands. This is fine if you are going to use your mower for commercial purposes, but overkill for the average domestic lawn.

My best advice would be to weigh up your needs and choose the best mower that will meet them. In some cases, this may mean spending a little extra but rather than buying a cheap mower that doesn't do the job properly. In the end, you'll only have to fork out for something that is going to be suitable.

## Noise

Noise isn't always something that people think about until it's too late so I'd suggest taking a few moments to consider how noisy the machine will be.

Having combustion engines, petrol lawn mowers are always going to be the noisiest. It's worth thinking about whether this noise is going to serve as a disruption to yourself, your family and your neighbours. If you have a massive lawn then a petrol mower will likely be your best option but since it'll take some time to get the whole mow done, I'd look for something as quiet as possible.

Electric and cordless lawn mowers can be quite loud, operating at around 80 - 85 dB(A), but compared to petrol at 96 -100 dB(A), most don't cause too much of a racket.

If you're considering getting a robotic lawn mower, then I would take a look at my reviews to see how loud your chosen model is. While most do boast quiet to silent operation, there are some that are louder than others. The

last thing you want is for your weekend relaxation in the sun to be disturbed by the constant hum of your robot lawn mower.

**Further Reading: -**

[Find Your Perfect Lawn Mower Now](#)

## Lawn Mower Storage

I wanted to talk about storing your lawn mower because this isn't something that a lot of people think about until they get their new machine home and find it doesn't fit into the garden shed. What's more, you should also think about whether there are any restricting areas in the garden such as gates or alleyways that you'll need to get your mower through.



Naturally, a petrol mower is going to be bigger, heavier and bulkier than other types so you will need more space for this. If you choose a cordless or electric lawn mower, then these are far more lightweight and easy to store which is one of the major selling points.

The great thing about many electric mowers is that they can be stored vertically. Instead of having to find a place on the garage or shed floor, you can hang the mower onto hooks on the wall which is perfect if your shed is small or already overfilled. That said, just be sure that the hooks you use are robust enough to keep the mower in place.

If you don't have a vertically storage lawn mower then it's not the end of the world because most models have folding handles which brings down the overall size of the machine, making it a lot easier to slot into a corner of the shed.



It's also worth thinking about how and where you will store your batteries if you have chosen a cordless lawn mower. I wouldn't recommend keeping the batteries inside the mower when it's not in use or would I suggest leaving them exposed in the shed. This is because there is a risk of extreme temperatures and moisture, both of which can affect the safety and performance of the battery.

Instead, find somewhere secure and sheltered in an outbuilding or garage to store your batteries and charger. They're not big pieces of equipment and most people will have a drawer or cabinet that will be suitable for storage. Just ensure that the batteries aren't kept near a heater and make sure the area is dry and well ventilated.

## How Often Should I Mow My Lawn?

Buying and using a lawn mower should be an enjoyable experience. Yes, mowing the lawn is a chore for most of us but you might as well choose something that's going to be nice to use. This applies even more for people who need to cut their grass more frequently which leads me on to the question of how often you should cut a lawn.

As I mentioned earlier, you want to avoid going in and chopping off all of the length at the beginning of mowing season. This is going to do nothing for your lawn's health and will likely send it into shock which could cause serious problems down the line like diminished roots, the grass being more prone to disease and even total grass death.

Mowing season starts at the beginning of spring but this can vary by year and even by location. However, according to my research, late March or the start of April seems to be when most people get out their lawn mowers for a much-needed tidy up.

We've established that, at this point, you only need to remove a third of the current length. You can then aim to cut your lawn around once a week, removing a little more each time until you get to the desired length.

That said, it's really important not to go over the top in the height of summer and during periods of drought, I wouldn't recommend mowing more than once a fortnight.

**Further Reading: -**

[Do It Yourself Lawn Care Schedule](#)

[The Best Way To Mow Your Lawn – Do It Right](#)

## Lawn Mower Maintenance

The final thing I'd like you to think about before settling on any lawn mower is how it needs to be maintained. If you buy a petrol mower, then this is always going to involve the most maintenance. Each year, you will have to complete various tasks that far exceed the care required for a cordless or corded lawn mower.

The most you'll need to do for an electric lawn mower is check and repair the blades, change the battery, and keep the mower clean. It's a good idea to clean the mower after each use, removing any grass clippings and other debris.

These things take barely any time at all so if you want something that's easy to care for, this is the route I'd recommend you go down.



## Petrol Lawn Mower Maintenance

If you're not worried about taking on a few additional maintenance tasks, then you'll probably be a good candidate as a petrol lawn mower owner. If these tools are not properly taken care of, problems will start to arise until eventually, the mower just gives up the ghost.

While it is possible to take your lawn mower to a repair shop or professional, this will increase your running costs. There may sometimes be problems that you can't rectify at home and therefore have no other choice. But the following things are relatively simple tasks that I'd recommend all petrol lawn mower owners learn how to do.



## Changing The Oil

There are two different types of petrol engines; a two stroke which requires a blend of fuel and oil in one tank and a four stroke engine which has two separate compartments for the oil and fuel. If you own the former, then you'll ensure that your fuel to oil ratio is correct each time you fill up the tank. However, for four stroke owners, it's recommended to change the oil at least once a year.

I like to do this at the beginning of the mowing season as it's out of the way and I can then drain the oil in autumn and store my mower safely over winter. The good news is that lawn mower oil is not expensive and changing it is one of the simplest tasks involved in caring for these tools.

If you don't regularly change the oil, then you'll notice a dip in the performance of your lawn mower. What's more, regular oil changes ensure that all of the moving parts are well lubricated which means a longer service life for your equipment.

## Cleaning And Changing Spark Plugs

Spark plugs are one of the smallest components of the petrol engine but they're what creates the spark to get the whole thing going. If they are dirty or faulty then your lawn mower just won't start.

If you ever have problems firing your petrol mower up, then one of the first things I'd tell you to check would be the spark plugs (after making sure that you have filled the tank with fuel; you'd be surprised how often this is overlooked.)

Spark plugs can get covered in dirt and cleaning them could restore their performance. Sometimes, the spark plug just isn't sitting right so you'll need to adjust the gap and you'll find details about this in your manufacturer's guide.

However, if there are any cracks or visible damage then they will need to be replaced which is just as simple as changing the oil.

Some higher end petrol mowers, such as Hayter, require you to have you mower serviced by an authorised service centre in order to maintain the warranty

## Changing The Air Filter

Just as your spark plugs can get dirty, so can the air filter in your petrol lawn mower. There are two types of filters including paper and foam. If you have a foam filter, then this is a much longer lasting component as it's very easy to clean using soapy water. However, paper filters don't last as long once they're caked in dirt. That said, if it's merely a case of a bit of dust then this can be blown away to give the filter a bit more use.

Generally speaking, air filters should last for around one year but there may be factors that affect this. In any case, if you notice signs like black smoke, trouble starting the engine, increased fuel consumption or power loss then this could mean it's time to change the filter.



**Further Reading: -**

[10 Simple Steps to Maintaining Your Petrol Lawn Mower](#)

## **Cleaning A Robot Lawn Mower**

If you have a robot lawn mower, then the good news is that these are relatively easy to look after. That said, I should warn you that any repairs or maintenance can be more costly owing to the technology used in their manufacture.

But for the most part, cleaning is all that's required and as long as you do this at least once a month then you shouldn't have too many problems with your machine. In the event that the weather is wetter, I'd recommend increasing the frequency of



cleaning as lots of grass clippings and debris will get lodged in the wheels and around the blade. Not only does this affect the speed and performance of the robot mower but it will also force your mower to use more power. This will increase how often your mower needs to charge and will reduce the quality of the cut. It's just not worth it.

When it's time to clean your robot lawn mower, make sure that you engage the safety switch and remove the battery where possible. Under no circumstances should you attempt to repair or clean your robot mower while it is in operation. You'll also want to make sure that you protect your hands from the blades by wearing a suitable pair of work gloves. Even when the blades aren't moving, they're still sharp enough to cut you.

Now turn your robot lawn mower over so that you can see the blades. You should easily be able to see whether there is any grass blocking the blades and this can be removed using a dry brush. The same equipment can be used to clean around the wheels and the sides of the mower. Once you have removed the majority of the first, you'll be able to start pulling grass out from underneath the mower. When you turn the mower back upright, any final bits of debris should fall right out.

Cleaning your robot mower is super simple but be sure not to use anything wet, like cleaning sprays or pour water onto the equipment as this will damage the electrics. That said, it is acceptable to use a damp cloth to wipe over the body of the mower to remove any small particles.

Robotic mowers should be taken inside during the winter months, cleaned, and batteries should also be removed where possible.

**Further Reading: -**

[DIY Robotic Lawn Mower Cleaning And Maintenance](#)

## Blade Maintenance

Regardless of the type of lawn mower you have, keeping the blades clean and sharp is one of the most important parts of maintenance. If they're not up to scratch, then you'll find that they don't cut properly and you'll be left with an uneven mowing result.

It's possible to sharpen your lawn mower blades a few times before they need to be replaced. Normally, you will get around 40 hours of use out of the blade before it should be sharpened and while there's no hard and fast rule on how many times you can sharpen a blade, most experts would agree that five to six is about average. After this, it's time to swap them out.

When it comes to changing the blades, be sure to remove the spark plug from your petrol mower to prevent any accidental startups. If you're using an electric mower, then either remove the batteries and safety key or make sure that the cord is unplugged. After this, you can either remove the blade to sharpen it or fit a new one.

If you're sharpening then there are various tools you can use including a metal file, a grinder, or a sharpening stone. It's down to your personal preference but whichever method you choose, be sure to go in only one direction.

The blades on robotic mowers cannot be sharpened and therefore need to be replaced. These blades are relatively inexpensive and are very easy to swap out.



Always consult the user manual for safety advice when sharpening or changing the mowers blade.

## Regular Checks

All lawn mowers are built to last several years. While petrol mowers usually last the longest, a well-maintained electric mower should withstand at least five years of use, if not more. However, without performing regular checks, you won't keep on top of any problems therefore your mower won't last as long. Use the following checklist during your mower inspections:

- Check and nuts, bolts and other fastenings to ensure they are tight and secure.
- Check cables and connections.
- Check the condition of the blade and make sure that it is tightly fitted.
- Look at the wheels and handles for any sign of damage.
- When storing the mower during the winter, turn the engine on every few weeks to test it. That said, it is best to drain the fuel and oil over winter as this can go stale and cause a whole host of problems in terms of performance. What's more, stale fuel can start to cause corrosion within the workings of the mower, again affecting its performance. Fuel stabilisers and preservatives can be used to prolong the life of the fuel.



## Final Thoughts

While buying a lawn mower is something that most of us will do several times during the course of our lives, many people don't realise the ins and outs of this purchase. It's tempting to go to a shop or look online and pick whichever mower seems cheapest or has the most interesting features.

But keep in mind that not all lawn mowers are suitable for all lawns.

It's imperative that you spend some time assessing the features and comparing them to your needs. This will help you choose a mower that will be easy to use and will stand the test of time because when you invest in a decent mower, it'll serve you for many seasons.

Now that you have finished this guide, you should be able to confidently choose a lawn mower and understand the importance and function of all the main features.

I know there's a lot to think about when it comes to choosing a lawn mower, but it really is worth taking the time to weigh up your options. If you're still unsure, I have lots of helpful information throughout my website to make it easier for you. Why not try out my tool where you can simply enter your requirements and I'll recommend the best matched mowers for you. Together, we'll find a great lawn mower for you and your garden!

[Lawn Mower Selection Tool](#)

Of course, if you have any further questions or would like to know more, there are several guides on [easylawnmowing.co.uk](https://easylawnmowing.co.uk) for further information. Happy mowing!