

Community Maintenance

How to care for the tools you use



You will probably be using traditional Nepali tools, especially for digging. They are actually very good for the job, especially in the hard clay soil, but may take a bit of getting used to.

You will have enough tools for the job, but maybe only one of something and not a tool for each member of the CM Team. Good quality tools are expensive in Nepal and so cheaper ones are generally used. In most cases they will be perfectly satisfactory for the job in hand.

It is critical that all the tools are looked after. Some previous CM volunteers have complained that there are not enough tools or they can't find them, but it is usually they who have misused or lost them!

CLEANING

Shovels: If using concrete / cement it is imperative that all tools are cleaned properly after use (a shovel caked in cement is heavier and harder to use!). Please also make sure you clean up the area you have mixed on.

Paint Brushes: Please ensure all paint brushes are cleaned properly. If using oil based paints, make sure you have sufficient cleaners before you start painting and then clean and dry them properly. DO NOT leave them standing/soaking in a jar of cleaner.

Please think about the next volunteer who will use the tools and expect to find them in the same condition you did. Please also be mindful that VSN does not have budget to keep replacing tools that aren't looked after properly.

STORAGE

To avoid tools going missing, both homes have large tool boxes for the smaller tools with a list of contents. Please make sure this matches the actual contents and if not, inform the Home's Manager.

You will be given the key to the tool box and so you will be responsible for all the tools in the box for the duration of your placement. All tools MUST be returned to the tool box at the end of each working day. All large tools, eg shovels, picks, hoes etc, will be stored safely elsewhere – it is your responsibility to make sure they are put away in the correct place at the end of each day.

If you genuinely require a tool that is not in the box, please ask as it may be at the other home! If not and the tool is deemed essential VSN will, purchase it for you, but you will need to give them at least 24 hours notice.

GENERAL CARE

With the larger tools such as shovels and picks the handles tend to be of poor quality and can break through no fault of your own. If this happens please inform either your Home Manager or Project Manager so it can be replaced. The tool must be returned to the relevant store with the broken handle.

If you are working on a project outside of our home's premise and using VSN/BFCH/SSCH tools, ensure they are returned to the relevant home/place at the end of each day.

Occasionally a member of the community may want to borrow a tool. Authorisation must come from a member of VSN staff, so you are not held responsible, as often they are not returned. If you lend a tool out yourself and fail to get it back in the same condition it was leant out in, you will be held responsible for it.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation and hope you have a fun and productive placement.