

Clean & Sharpen your Hand Pruners

Hand pruners are essential tools for gardeners and landscapers. To ensure they remain effective and safe to use, regular cleaning and sharpening are crucial. This guide provides step-by-step instructions on how to properly maintain your hand pruners, from cleaning the blades to sharpening the cutting edges.

Before cleaning, always wear safety gloves to protect your hands from sharp blades. Remove any debris or sap from the blades using a soft brush or cloth. For a thorough clean, use a mild detergent solution and a soft brush to scrub the blades. Rinse the blades with clean water and dry them completely. To sharpen the blades, use a sharpening stone or a dedicated pruning tool sharpener. Hold the blade at a consistent angle and move the sharpener back and forth along the cutting edge.

After sharpening, inspect the blades for any damage or wear. If the blades are dull or damaged, it may be necessary to replace them. Store your hand pruners in a dry, protected area to prevent rust and damage. Regular maintenance will ensure your hand pruners are always ready for use and will last for many years.

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You'll be amazed
at the difference it makes

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(Please:
Be careful of your fingers!)

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What you need

What you need to know

What you need to do

What you need to be

What you need to have

What you need to feel

What you need to think

What you need to say

What you need to do

What you need to be

What you need to have

What you need

Lubricating oil: WD-40 is good

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Scotch-brite pad or steel wool

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Rag

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Elbow grease

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Bandages?

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~~(Bandages?~~ Be careful!)

Wh
Lubrication
Scotch-br

Small sc
Pock



ironing on

Elbow grease

(~~Bandages?~~ Be careful!)



AND....

your pruners







these are very
dirty, much in need
of sharpening!

Simple steps:

1. **Identify the problem**

2. **Define the objectives**

3. **Develop a plan**

4. **Implement the plan**

5. **Evaluate the results**

6. **Communicate the findings**

7. **Draw conclusions**

8. **Recommend actions**

9. **Monitor progress**

10. **Report the results**

Simple steps:
Clean the blade

Simple steps:

Clean the blade

Clean the spring/mechanism

Simple steps:

Clean the blade

Clean the spring/mechanism

Sharpen the outer edge of the blade



For cleaning the metal parts,
oil will help.

Coat the metal with WD-40





Now use the Scotch-brite pad
or steel wool
to clean the metal surfaces



This is where
the elbow grease
comes in to play.

This is where
the elbow grease
comes in to play.

Work at it!

This is where
the elbow grease
comes in to play.

Work at it!

Add more oil as needed.







That's
hardened sap
and rust
you're
removing



It causes
friction
(harder for
you to cut!)
and keeps
the blades
from
meeting
(tears the
branches)

See sap just beginning to build up on these we've kept cleaned?



See sap just beginning to build up on these we've kept cleaned?





Sometimes
we resort to
turpentine.











Clean all
surfaces









You CAN get
it off.



You do NOT want to sharpen a dirty, rusty edge because dirt will scratch the blade. Meanwhile, tiny bits of rust will be dragged out and pressed into the new edge, “seeding” more rust



















Phew! That's
the *inside*
edge of the
blade cleaned.



Now we've
flipped the
pruners to
clean the
outside edge.



Same
procedure:
Oil and scour.















The oil is softening all that crud



The oil is softening all that crud
but it may still be tough
to clean it out of all the crevices.

The oil is softening all that crud
but it may still be tough
to clean it out of all the crevices.

This is where a screwdriver tip
may help, to press the scouring pad
into tight places.







Yes, they ARE
the same
pruners we
started with!



Yes, they ARE
the same
pruners we
started with!



Another spot to clean before we
sharpen the blade:





Another spot to clean before we
sharpen the blade:

The spring area

Another spot to clean before we
sharpen the blade:

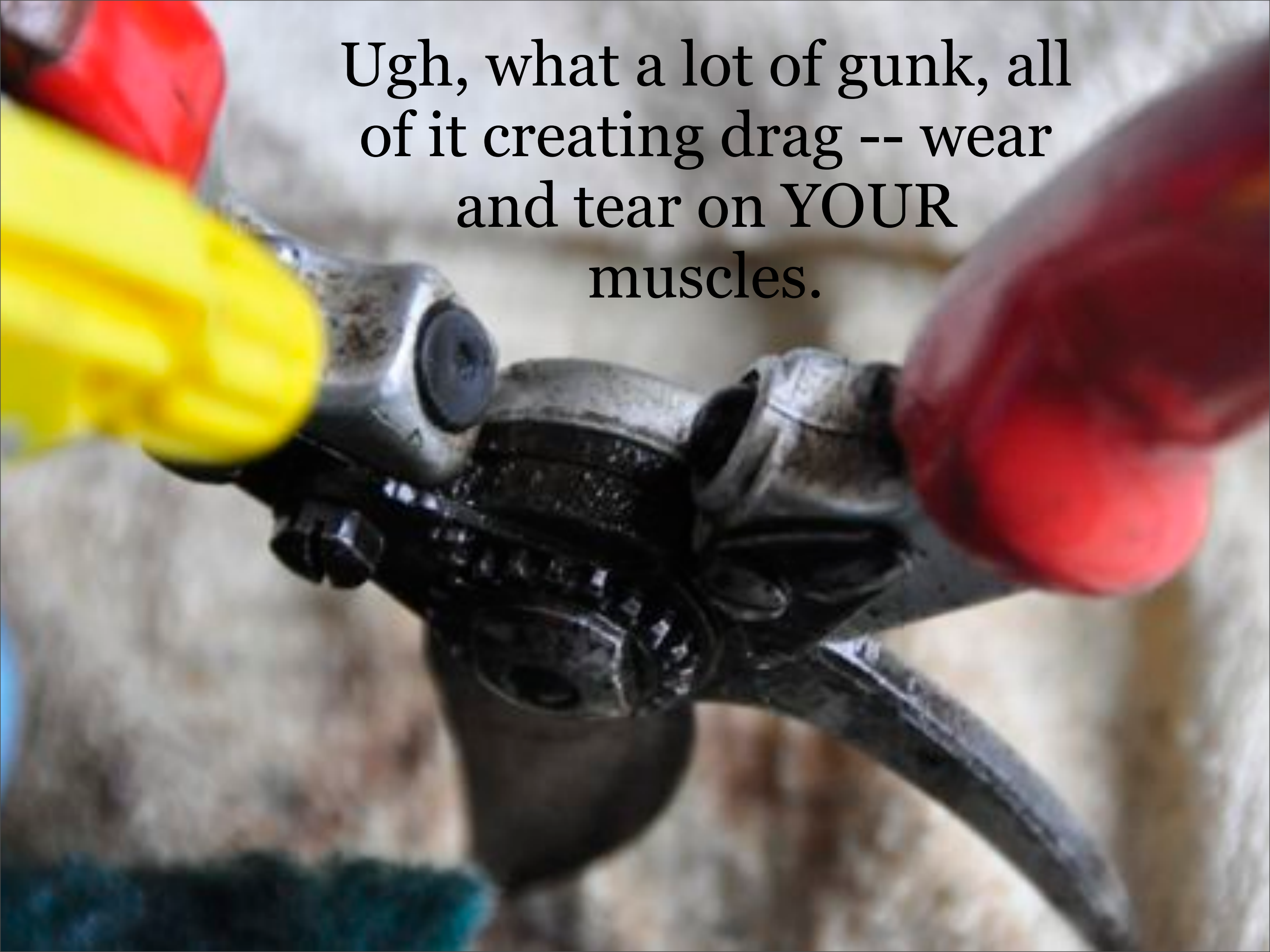
The spring area.

Same deal: Oil, scrub, wipe.





Ugh, what a lot of gunk, all
of it creating drag -- wear
and tear on YOUR
muscles.
























Normally, it isn't necessary to
disassemble your pruners.

Normally, it isn't necessary to
disassemble your pruners.
But when they're this bad....!









If you take them
apart, re-set the
tension when you put
them back together.

This step differs for
each pruner model.









Now wipe them off and
you're ready to sharpen!











Before cleaning

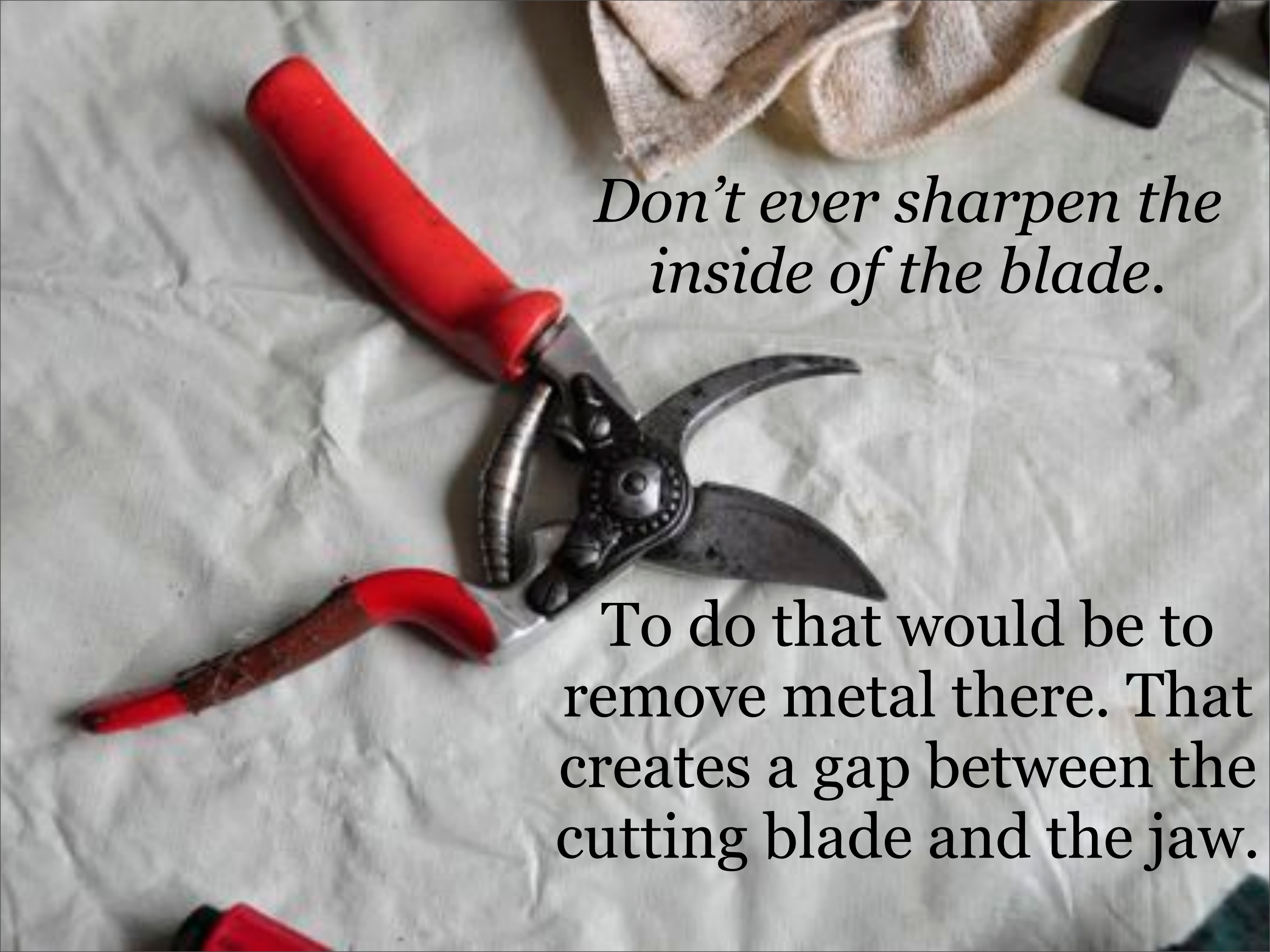
after, ready to
sharpen

But you're looking at
the *inside* surface of the
blade.



*Don't ever sharpen the
inside of the blade.*





*Don't ever sharpen the
inside of the blade.*


To do that would be to
remove metal there. That
creates a gap between the
cutting blade and the jaw.



You want
a clean cut.



Blades that don't meet
mangle rather than cut.
A bad cut (above) will
take longer to close over
and be prone to fungal
and insect trouble.



Sharpen
only the
beveled edge



Sharpen
only the
beveled edge
It's the *outer*
surface of
the blade.



inner edge




outer edge



When this
blade was
dirty its
beveled edge
was quite
visible





It has lots of nicks and dull spots.
When you sharpen, you smooth those out.
That will mean less friction for less work
and a better cut.





NORTON

SHARPENING STONE OIL
HUILE À AFFÛTER
ACEITE PARA PIEDRA
DE AFILAR



Put some honing oil on your stone



NORTON

SHARPENING STONE OIL
HUILE À AFFÛTER
ACEITE PARA PIEDRA
DE AFILAR

SPECIALY FORMULATED • FORMULADO ESPECIALMENTE PARA



The oil soaks in. Tiny bits of metal that come off as you hone will float away in an oil film.





Now stroke the honing stone firmly
along the beveled edge.

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along the beveled edge.
Stroke in one direction,

Now stroke the honing stone firmly
along the beveled edge.
Stroke in one direction,
from base to tip.

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along the beveled edge.
Stroke in one direction,
from base to tip.

We aim for 50 strokes, then check it.











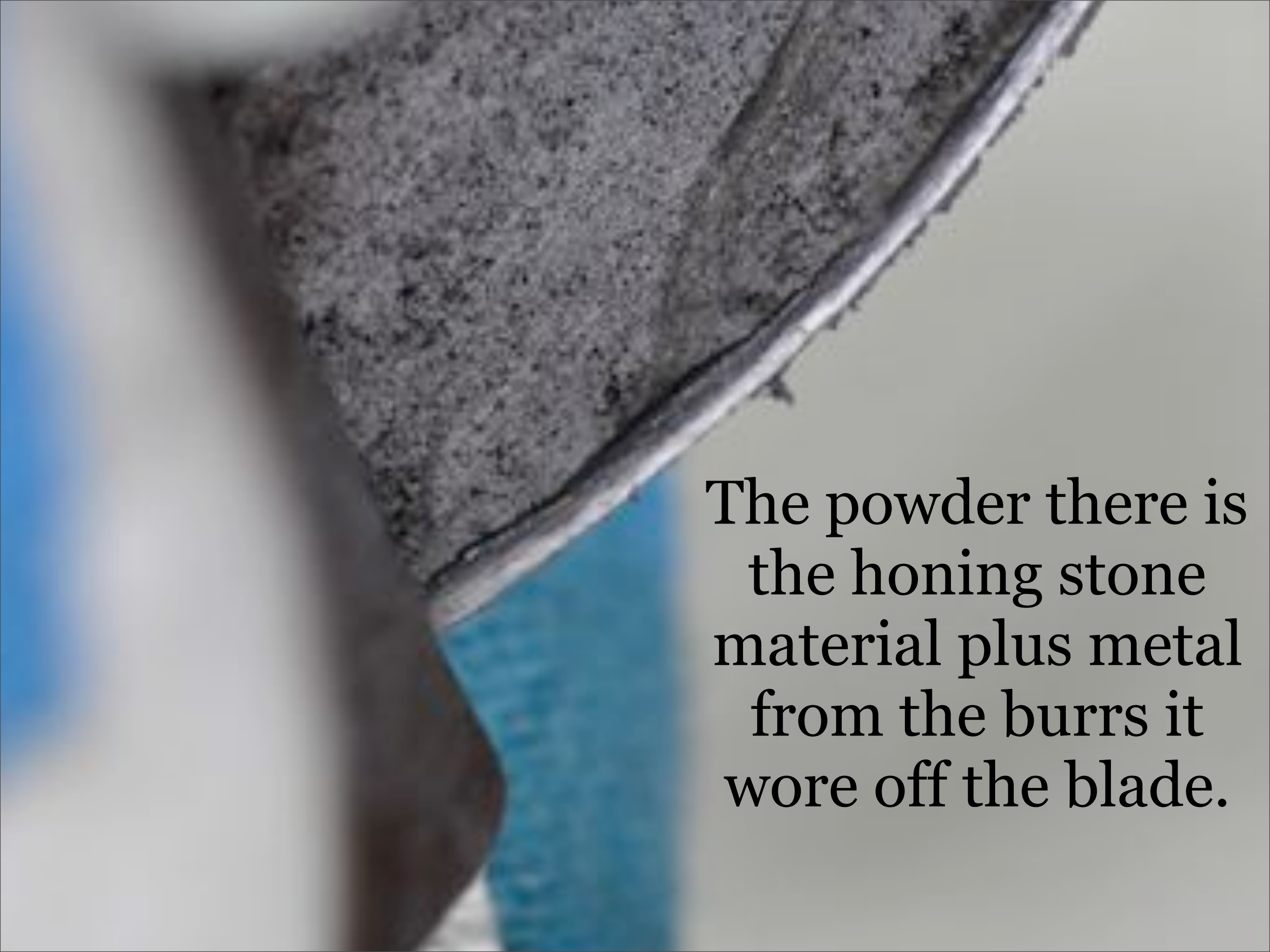













The powder there is
the honing stone
material plus metal
from the burrs it
wore off the blade.

Finally, hone to remove
any burrs on the jaw

Burrs there
could scratch
the cutting
blade



A close-up photograph of a hand holding a knife. The hand is wearing a blue and white striped sleeve. The knife has a dark handle and a silver blade. The blade is positioned vertically, and the hand is holding it from the handle. The background is blurred, showing a white surface and a red object.

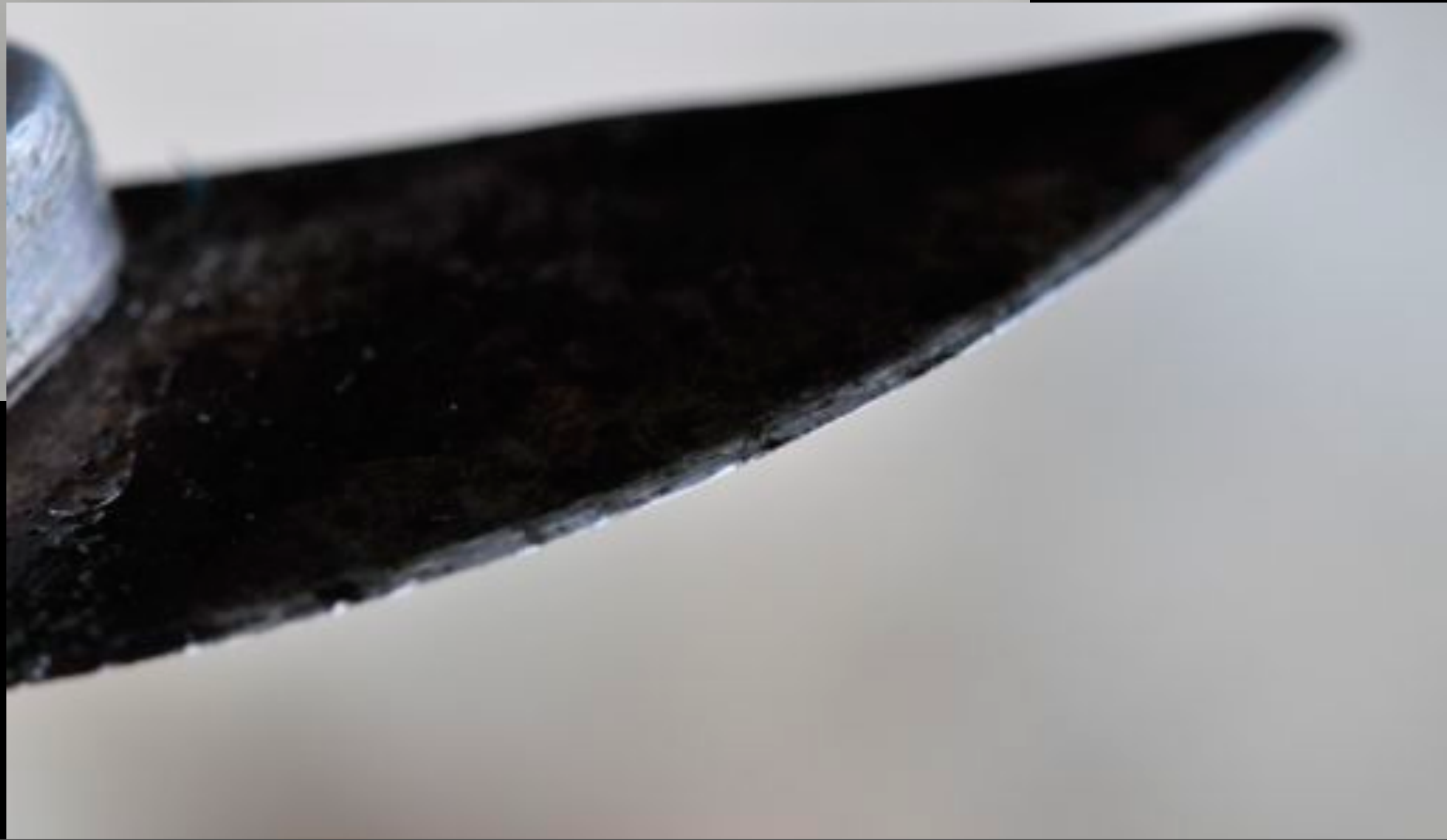
Hone only the
top, don't take
metal off that
inside part
where the blade
closes past the
jaw.

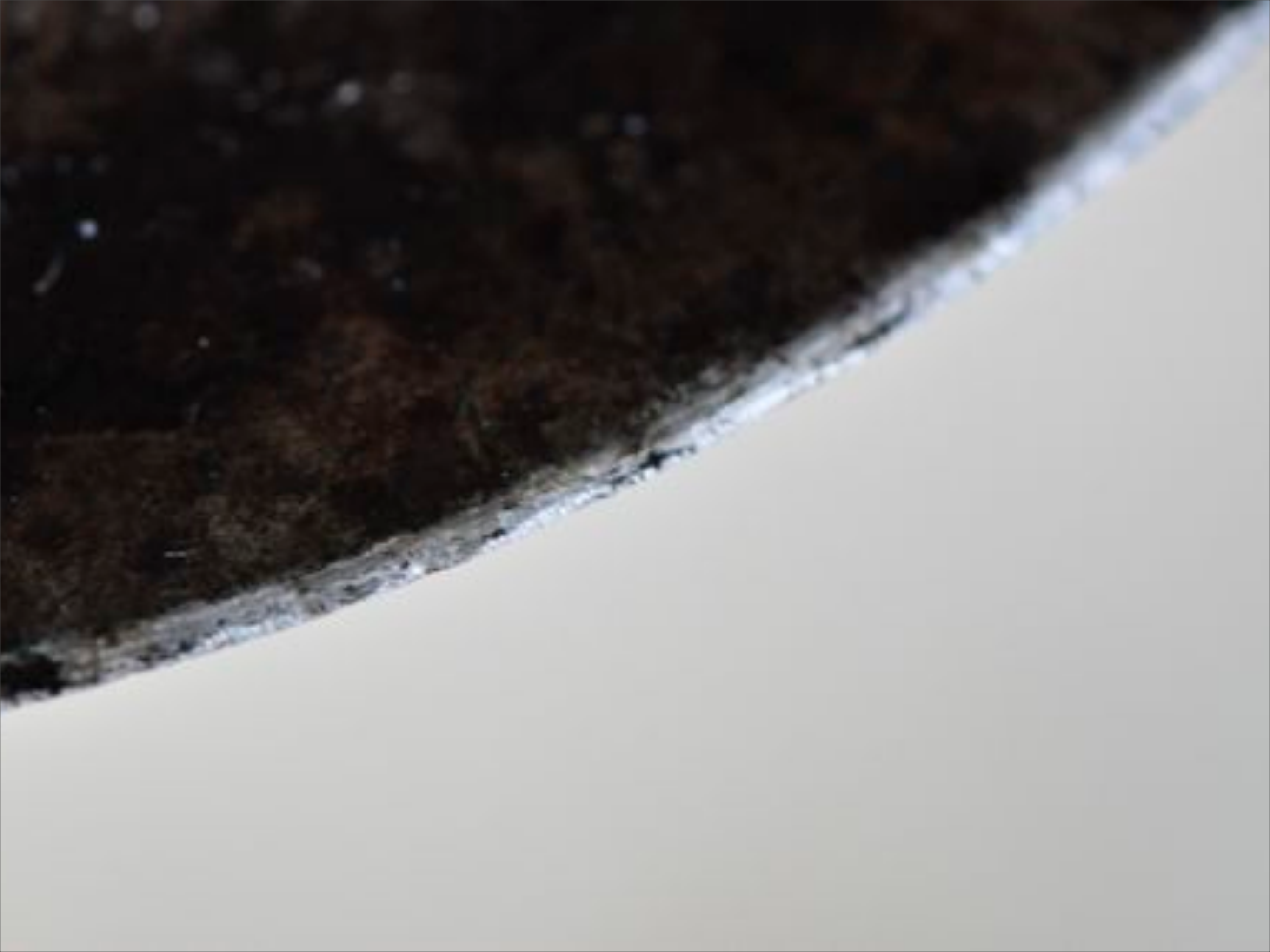
Now admire your work!















And be careful of your fingers:

And be careful of your fingers:
Those cutters will work *so easily now!*



You did it!

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