Clean & Sharpen your Hand Pruners

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(Please:
Be careful of your fingers!)

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What you need

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Scotch-brite pad or steel wool

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Honing oil

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Elbow grease

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Wh

Lubricatin

Scotch-br

Small sc

Pock

Honing oil

Elbow grease

(Bandages? Be careful!)

AND....

your pruners


these are very
dirty, much in need
of sharpening!

Simple steps:

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Clean the blade

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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.

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the elbow grease
comes in to play.

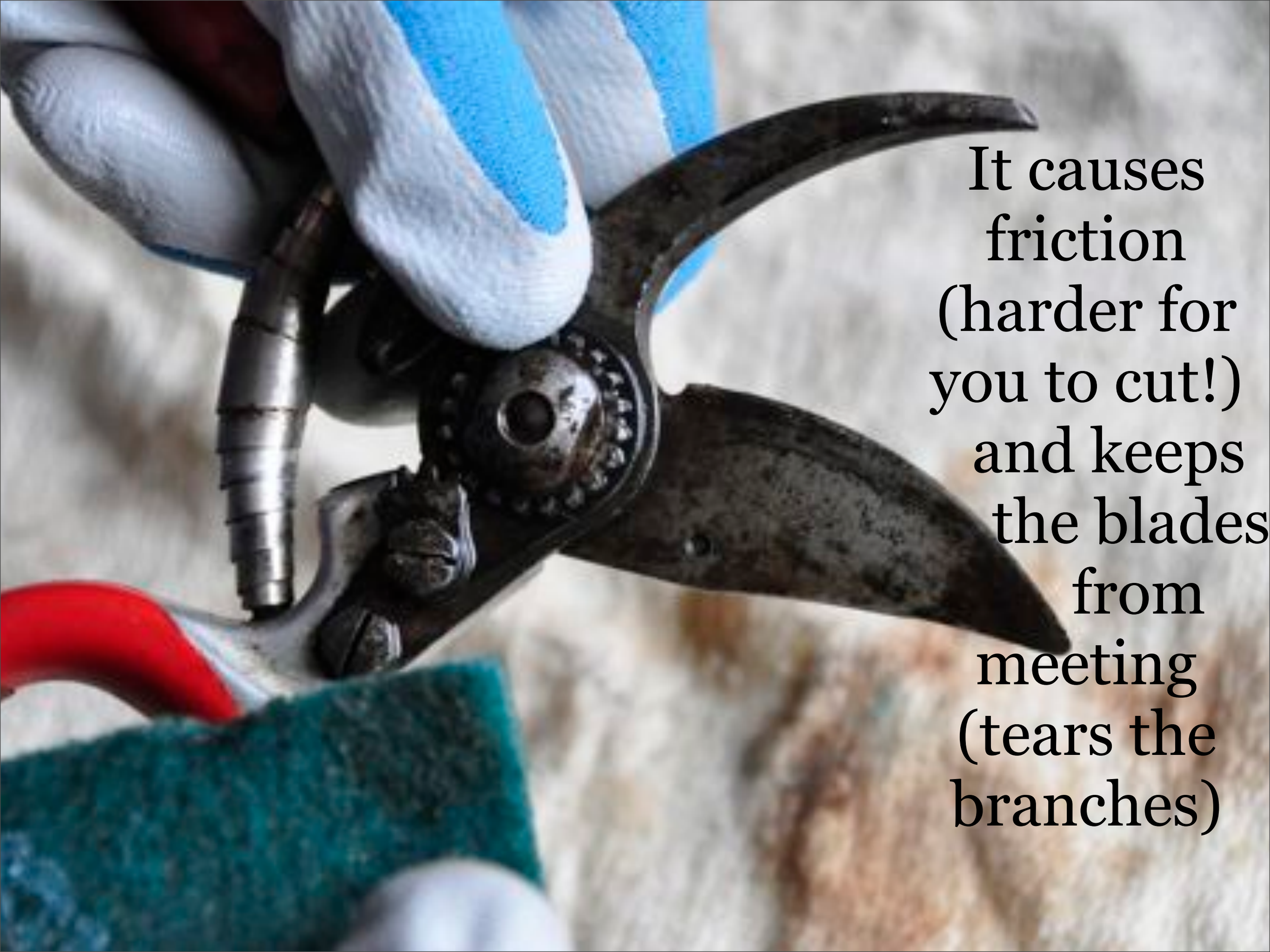
Work at it!

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?

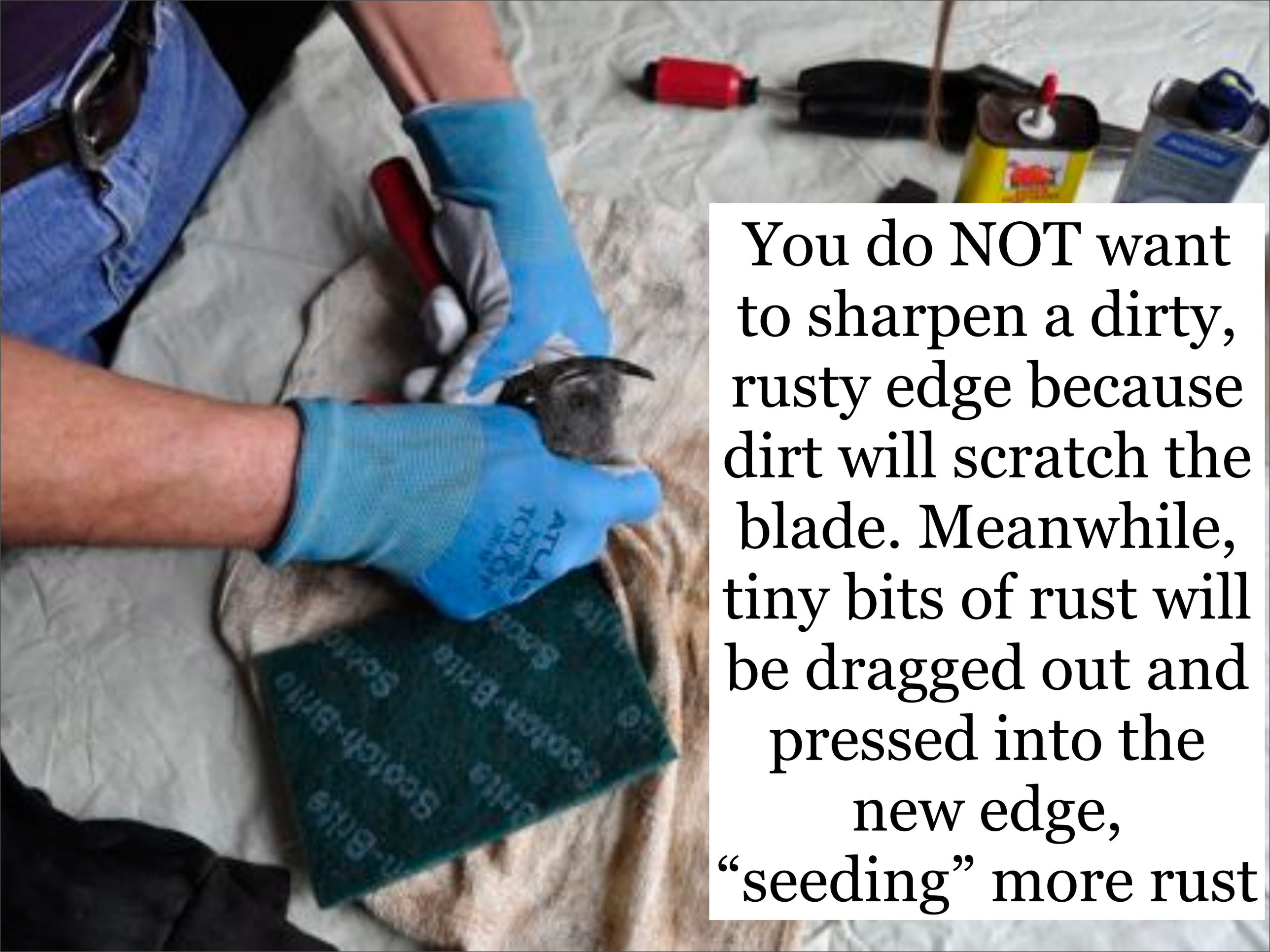

Sometimes
we resort to
turpentine.


ATLAS


Scotch-Brite
Scotch-Brite

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


ATLAS
ATLAS


ATLAS
TOUR


ATLAS
NITRILE
TOUCH


ATLAS
Nitrile
TOUCH
170 M


ATLAS
Nitrile
TOUCH
370 M

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.


ATLAS
TOUGH


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.


ATLAS
TOUCH


ATLAS

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!

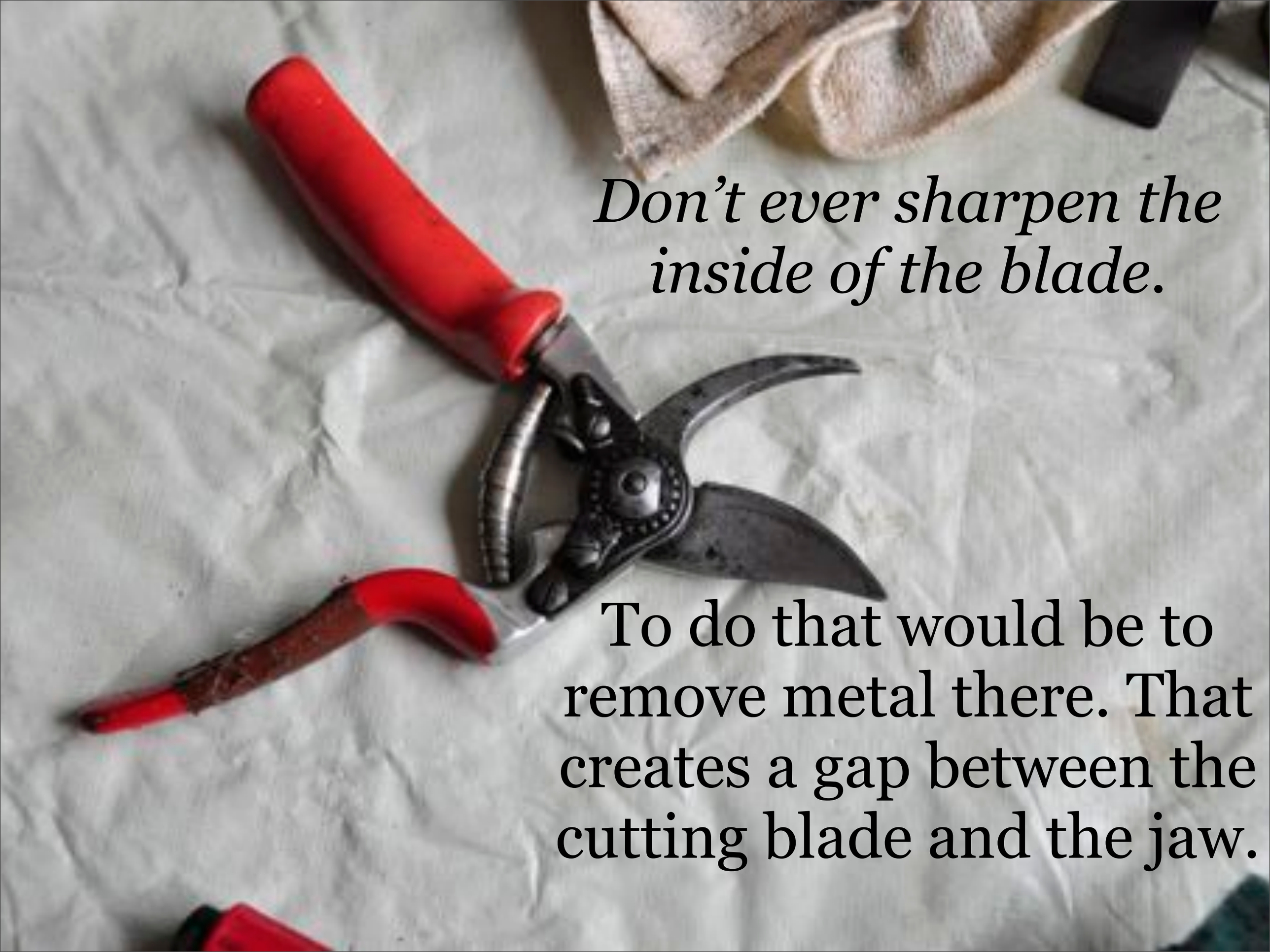

ATLAS
Nitrile
TOUCH

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

SPECIALLY FORMULATED

Put some honing oil on your stone

NORTON

SHARPENING STONE OIL
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SPECIALLY FORMULATED

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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Stroke in one direction,

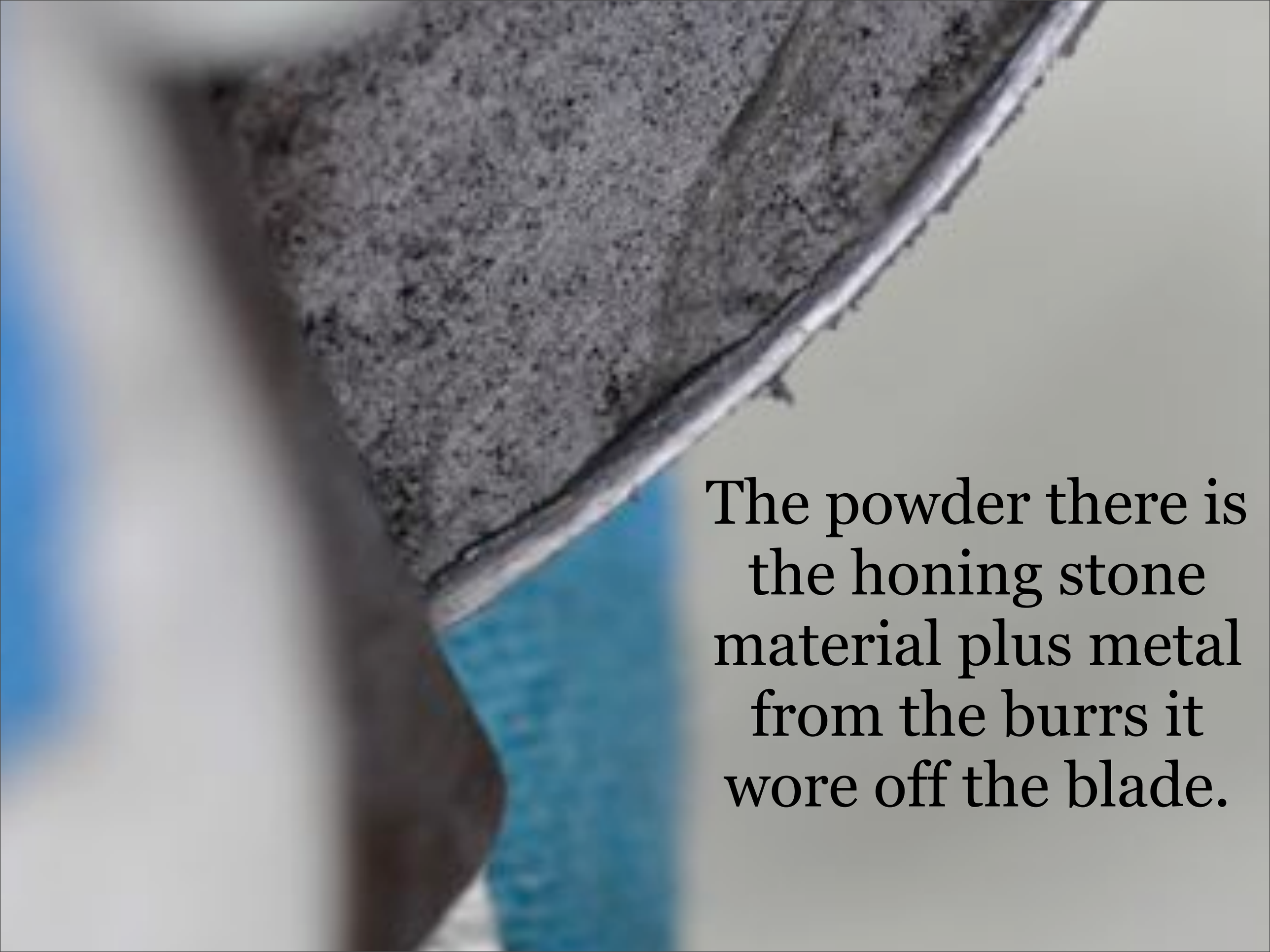
Now stroke the honing stone firmly
along the beveled edge.
Stroke in one direction,
from base to tip.

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

We aim for 50 strokes, then check it.


ATLAS


ATLAS



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


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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