

2012 HD dot com: Shovels

While the terms are often used interchangeably, there are differences between shovels and spades. A common way of distinguishing between them is by their intended use. Shovels are primarily used to dig deep into the earth and for loosening soil. Their blade capacity is greater than that of a spade. Spades, with their shallower blades and straighter, “less aggressive” blade edges, are best used for transplanting shrubs and plants and leveling garden beds. Both shovels and spades can feature conventional long handles in either wood or fiberglass. The difference between wood is often a customer’s preference. Wood offers more flexibility and natural feel while fiberglass will be more difficult to break. Some also feature D-grips. To maximize efficiency, it’s useful to have a mix of shovels and spades on hand for any gardening or construction task. The most common types are explained below:



Round Point Shovel

The primary purpose of a shovel is to dig. The round point shovel is the best shovel for this purpose.



Garden Spade

Also referred to as a “Border Spade,” Garden Spades are used for transplanting small trees, shrubs and perennials and for turning over the garden. They are also excellent for edging flower beds and walkways.



Drain Spade

Sometimes referred to as a “Sharpshooter,” a drain spade is used for digging narrow trenches and cleaning out previously dug ditches. Drain spades are also helpful in transplanting small shrubs and trees.



Trenching Shovel

A trenching shovel is used for digging fresh trenches, ditches, and spillways or clearing and cleaning existing



Square Point Shovel

A square point shovel is primarily used for transferring loose materials such as dirt, mulch, gravel, sand and stone. It also can be used to scrape or break ice.