



## Using a Saw Skills Card

A bow saw is often used along with an axe for preparing firewood and is essential for all camps where an open fire is being used. Bow saws are used to cut wood that is too large for a hand-axe. They should be greased to prevent the blade from rusting and, as blades are relatively cheap, they should never be sharpened but replaced regularly.



### Using a bow saw

1. Make sure that the wood you are cutting is held firmly. If you need to use your hand for this make sure it is kept well away from the blade.
2. Start slowly by pulling the blade backward towards you until the blade is well into the wood. The push and pull in a steady rhythm using the whole length of the blade. Do not apply downward pressure; let the saw do the cutting. Trying to force it will often result in the blade getting stuck.
3. Always mask the saw when not being used. Either with a plastic 'clip-on' mask or tie a length of sacking around the blade.

