

Peter Kinch

Trade & DIY  
Welcome

# Plant & Tool Hire

Open Monday to Friday 07:30-17:00

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## Do-It-Yourself Tree Stump Grinding

When you hire a tree service or landscaping company to cut down trees on your property, the contract price seldom includes removing the stumps. That unenviable task is typically left to the homeowner. But have you ever tried to dig out a tree stump?

Landscapers charge according to the size of the stump but you can rent a petrol-powered stump grinder from us and do the job yourself. Why not plan to share the rental expense with a neighbour? Our staff will explain the controls and show you how to safely operate the machine. Never use a stump grinder without wearing eye and hearing protection, we can supply this if you don't have your own.



Note that you'll need a good size vehicle or trailer or van to transport the machine, alternatively we can arrange delivery for a small charge.

Our machine is the new Predator 360 'Swinger' which has all of the great features of the long standing Predator 350 with the added central pivot that allows the machine to be swung from side to side effortlessly. This increases speed and reduces effort, allowing the operator to work for longer periods without tiring. This is a loud, powerful machine but it's surprisingly simple to operate.

Start by using a shovel or garden mattock to remove any rocks from around the base of the stump. This is important because rocks can dull or damage the teeth on the cutting wheel.

Raise the grinder wheel a few inches above the stump. Drive the machine forward to position the wheel directly over the stump's front edge. Start the wheel spinning and slowly lower it about 3 in. into the stump. Slowly swing the wheel from side to side to clear out the wood. After you've dug down at

least 4 in., raise the wheel, advance the machine a few inches, and repeat the process.

Little by little, continue to grind your way through to the other side of the stump. Stop and check to make sure that the freshly dug hole is at least 4 in. below the ground. Rake up all the wood chips and fill the crater with screened topsoil.

Tamp down and lightly rake the soil. Spread out an even layer of grass seed, and then rake the seeds into the soil. Water the area and cover the seeds with a thick cover of mulch hay.