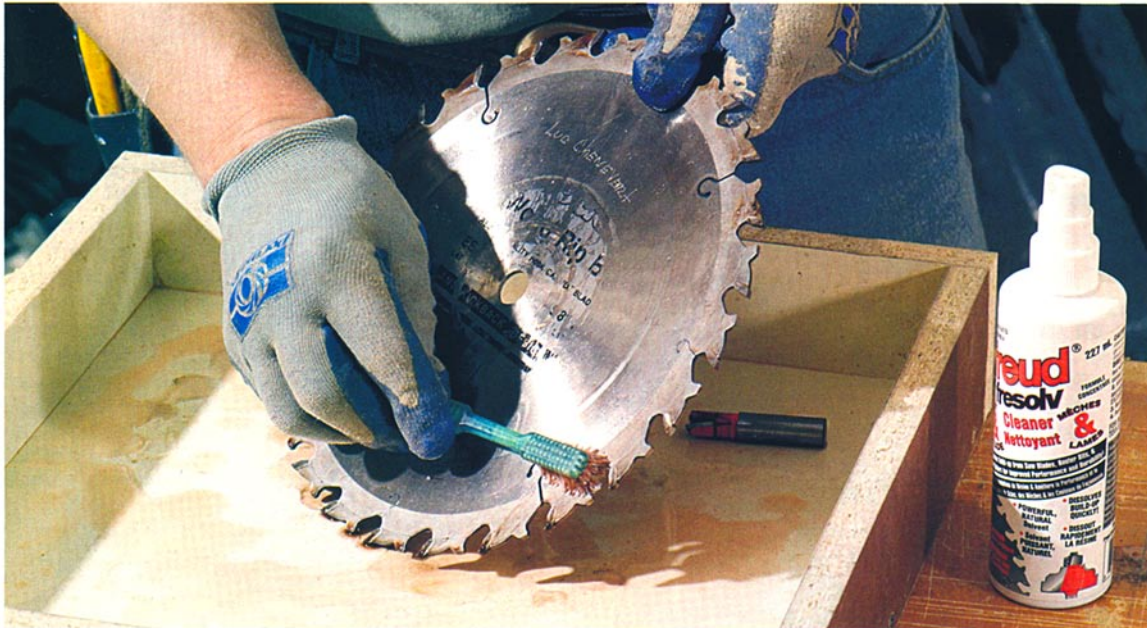


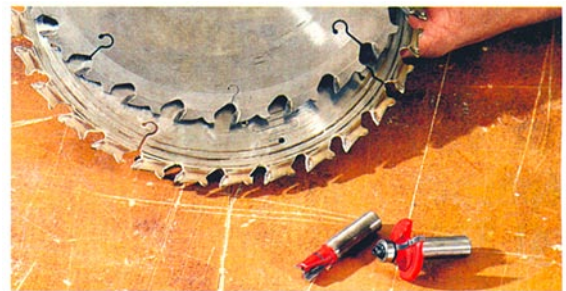
# Maintenance of carbide blades and cutters



Regular maintenance is important to maximize the quality of your cuts and the durability of your saw blades and router cutters. Carbide plates that are soldered onto the body of the cutter or blade require special care. Carbide plates are a collection of fine particles that are glued, unlike steel which is forged: the durability of these particles ensures the durability of the material. A carbide blade wears down when these particles begin to detach, as opposed to steel, which wears when the grain orientation becomes rounded. Sap and resin contained in wood increase the level of acidity, which accelerates this detachment process. This is why carbide tools should be cleaned immediately after each use and not right before the next use, which may not occur for two or three months!

### CLEANING PRODUCT:

To clean saw blades and router bits, I use a degreasing product sold in auto parts centres or Freud's Fresolv cleaner. Both products are very effective and are used the same way. I put the blade or the cutter in an aluminium pie plate or similar container reserved for this purpose and spray each side generously. I let it soak for one or two minutes and then brush it with a toothbrush. Then I rinse it with water and dry it thoroughly with compressed air. This last step is critical to preventing rust marks.



Before cleaning router cutters, I recommend that you first remove the ball bearings. If they aren't rolling, cleaning probably won't help, in which case, they should be replaced.