

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CARE AND USE OF MAKUTU HERBICIDE WANDS

Filling

1. Remove (unscrew) wick holder and open valve by turning the red handle anti-clockwise (red control handle should be parallel to body of wand).
2. Use a funnel to fill the primary reservoir (the clear section of PVC pipe will show when reservoir is full).
3. Replace wick holder.
4. Close valve by turning the red handle clockwise.

Use

Note: The Standard Makutu is designed for use only with water-soluble herbicides.

1. Open valve to fill the secondary reservoir/wick assembly and point wick toward the ground.
2. Close valve when wick is wet. Leaving valve fully open can lead to dripping. Sometimes, one will need to keep valve **slightly** open to provide better flow of herbicide. You will have good flow herbicide **wets** the surface of the cut.
3. Place wick on a rag placed in a plastic bag when laying wand on the ground. I **do not recommend** leaning the wand against a tree or other object. If it falls to the ground in frigid temperatures or onto a hard surface, you may break the wand.
4. When finished for the day, hold wand so that wick is pointing upward. Open the valve to transfer herbicide from the secondary reservoir to the primary reservoir and close valve.
5. Unscrew the wick holder **leaving the wick in place** and put wick holder/wick in a leakproof container.
6. Use rag to wipe off herbicide residue from wand and place rag in a leakproof container.
7. When re-attaching the wick assembly, hand-tighten **only until the wick assembly is snug**. Ideally, the valve control handle should face up (parallel to the tip of the wand) as this provides optimum balance.
8. While there is gas line tape on the threads of the wick assembly, it may not be necessary to replace it when it becomes worn. However, if you notice leakage, you should replace the tape. It is available at many hardware stores that sell plumbing supplies and at home improvement stores. Simply firmly hold the end of the tape to the threads and while maintaining tension wrap the tape around the threads while overlapping it as little as possible.

Replacing The Wick

1. Purchase Varathane Brand Applicator Refill **For Oil Based Finishes**. (regardless of herbicide mix being used is water or oil-based). You can also find the pads at Home Depot or your local hardware store. **NOTE:** There are two versions of the pad: the older USA-made version was produced by Flecto (#9731); the newer version is produced in China for Rustoleum (#989731) and creates a superior wick.
2. Use a **sharp** scissors to cut the pad reducing its length to 9 1/4 inches; then cut three **longitudinal** strips of 1 3/4 inches x 9 inches for the long Makutu; cut five **lateral** strips of approximately 2 inches in width for the short Makutu.
3. Remove retaining screw.
4. Roll the strip into a tight cylinder and insert it into the wick holder using a twisting motion and downward pressure. You will know if the wick is properly seated when a **gentle** tug fails to dislodge it.
5. Replace retaining screw.

Note: Some customers have had difficulty rolling the Long Makutu's wick tightly. If you have difficulty, soak the wick in mineral spirits and let it dry before rolling it.

Replacing the Ball Valve

If you damage the ball valve, you can replace it. Unscrew the wick assembly and the reservoir. and be sure to remove and replace the yellow gas line tape (if worn) to the threaded fittings before re-attaching the reservoirs. When reattaching the reservoirs **hand-tighten** until as snug as possible so that the entire reservoir does not move when removing and re-attaching the wick holder. If you damage the wick assembly or reservoir, you may contact the Glacial Prairie Chapter (wamcp70@icloud.com) for replacement.

The Makutu is designed to apply herbicide to cut stems of woody vegetation while minimizing herbicide use. It also may be used to treat rosettes of herbaceous vegetation, such as Canada thistle, teasel, and spotted knapweed.