

## How to tension the saw chain correctly

Regular tensioning of the saw chain improves the safety during use and reduces wear and damage to the chain. We therefore recommend that you check the chain tension and make any necessary corrections each time before you start work. During work with the chain saw, the chain becomes warm and therefore expands slightly. During manufacture, STIHL saw chains are "stretched" slightly in the factory, and this prevents excessive thermal expansion. Nevertheless, for your own safety, you must still tension it manually from time to time.

Most STIHL chain saws have an easy-to-use chain tensioner on the side, with which the chain can be tensioned in a matter of minutes. This is how it is done:



1. With the engine turned off, first loosen the securing screws of the chain cover with a combination wrench. To tension the chain, it is sufficient to only loosen these screws. Then turn the tensioning screw with the screwdriver end of the combination wrench (see picture).



2. Now check whether the chain lies loosely on the bar. To prevent injuries, you should wear protective gloves when doing this. If the lower side of the chain hangs away from the bar (see picture), it is too loose and you must turn the tensioning screw further.



3. If the lower side of the chain does not hang away from the bar, but the chain can still be pulled away slightly, the tension is correct. You should also be able to lift the top side of the chain slightly (see picture). To prevent injuries from the sharp edges of the chain, you should wear protective gloves when doing this.