

Why Does My Trimmer Line Keep Breaking?

A weed trimmer is an invaluable tool for making your lawn look flawless. They work by simply spinning a strong plastic line fast enough so that it can easily chop through grass. However, it is not so easy when the line keeps breaking on you.

The main reasons why your trimmer line keeps breaking are:

- **Low quality line**
- **Line is not designed for your trimmer**
- **Not rolled properly**
- **Too much line used at once (or not enough)**
- **Line is worn out**

Keep reading to learn the easy remedies for these common weed trimmer problems.

How Those Issues Occur and How to Stop Them

As annoying as your trimmer line constantly breaking is, you will surely be glad to know that all of these causes have fairly simple solutions. Let's learn about how these problems pop up and how to fix them.

Low Quality Line

The easiest problem to fix is a low-quality line. Look, for some things, you have to just buy the good stuff. If you bought a cheap line from the big box store, it is cheaply made with inferior materials. That means it is going to break way faster than it should. Try one of these higher quality trimmer line brands instead:

- [Maxpower](#)- You will never need to buy trimmer line again. Well, at least not for a few years. This huge 855-foot reel needs to be wrapped on your trimmer, but it is definitely worth it if you like to buy in bulk. It is also round cut, which is the strongest.
- [Black & Decker](#)- Black & Decker is known for its quality, and this line is no exception. Comes in a three pack for a fair price. Loaded on reels that can be directly installed onto many trimmer models.
- [Arnold](#)- This is probably the best trimmer line you can buy while still being high quality. It is in a star shape, not rounded, but still thick enough to last a while. The 140 feet quantity is also impressive.

Line Is Not Designed for Your Weed Trimmer

Of course, if buying a higher quality trimmer line did not work, it could also be possible that you are using one that is not designed for your trimmer in the first place. If the line is too thick, it will break at slower speeds and without feeding more line through. If it is too thin, will feed through and cut off way too easily. Either way, that line is going to keep breaking and you are going to keep running out. Consult your instruction manual for exact line specifications for your trimmer after you use up the factory installed line.

Not Rolled Properly

Another possibility is that you did not roll the line properly. As trimmer line weakens at the ends, it is meant to naturally fall off. With the extra space now under the grass guard, more line will automatically feed out of the reel. **Ideally, you actually should never have to “tap” out more line.**

However, in practice, occasionally having to tap out more line is perfectly normal. But of course, if you have to do it every few minutes because the line keeps breaking, that understandably becomes annoying. It is most likely because the line is bound around the reel incorrectly, meaning it cannot automatically slip out. Follow these steps to properly roll up your trimmer line:

1. **Detach the spool from the weed trimmer head.** Usually these can be popped off with a push and twist. If you are not sure, consult your owner’s manual for removal instructions.
2. **Pull off roughly 20 feet of line from your reel.**
3. **Grab one end and find the hole in the middle of the spool.**
4. **Stick the end into the hole.**
5. **Pull on the line until you reach the middle of it.** Now you should have two equal lengths, like shoelaces.
6. **Take both ends and start winding the around the spool at the same time.**
7. **The most important thing to remember when winding the line: try to avoid crossing as much as possible.** Keep wrapping straight on, and only cross slightly over when you need to start a new row. The more you cross, the more risk of the line becoming caught and causing feeding issues.
8. **When you have about 8 inches of line left on both sides, feed both ends through the holes on the side of the trimmer head.**
9. **Latch the spool in place and you should be good to cut those weeds!**

Sources: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s-g4CYCMqf8>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8CWL2BLmbP8>

Too Much or Not Enough Line Used at Once

If none of that works, the problem might just be with your trimming habits. Do not worry, this is easy to fix. Either two things are happening here: either you are letting the line become way too long, or you just are not using enough.

If your line is too long, say about a foot, it is essentially going to start slapping walls and becoming caught on fences, rather than just powering through the grass cut and moving on. Any excess wear and tear on your line is going to break it at a much faster rate.

On the contrary, if your line is only a couple inches short, the grass tends to win the battle, not the line. That is because without enough line and the resulting torque, it does not have enough strength to cut. Instead, the string wears out and needs to be replaced faster.

In general, it is best to keep about 8 inches of trimmer line showing for the perfect combination of an easy cut and low line usage.

Line is Worn Out

For most weed trimmers, whether it breaks often or not, more line can be tapped back into place. However, this is not the case with certain weed trimmers. Some require a much stronger type of line that is precut and simply placed into the head. (No wrapping necessary.)

If you have this kind of trimmer and the line is breaking too often, keep the following in mind:

- **It is absolutely essentially you buy the highest quality line, as replacement is a bigger hassle.**
- **Be careful to avoid hitting objects like sidewalks and walls, as this will make the line wear out faster.**
- **Make sure you are not cutting the line too long.** Even in these kinds of trimmers, if the line is too long, it just takes more damage.
- **Too much power. You should not constantly run this type of trimmer at the highest possible setting.** Doing so may cut a little faster, but it also makes the line take a lot more abuse.

Sources:

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The Best Weed Trimmer Brands

If all else fails, it might just be that your trimmer is not producing enough power anymore, which hurts the effectiveness of the line. You may want to check out one of these other brands of weed trimmers instead.

Black & Decker

[This weed trimmer from Black & Decker](#) is exactly what you need. This company is known for its quality products and this is no exception. It plugs in so you do not have to deal with gasoline or constant dead batteries. In addition, there are package options with additional spools, so you do not even need to worry about finding the right brand later.

Makita

[The Makita trimmer kit](#), on the other hand, ensures you will never need more weapons against weeds again. Admittedly it is a little pricy, but it comes with four batteries and an all-out charging station so you will never have a battery die on you again. No more dragging the extension around the yard and accidentally cutting it.