

Finishing Tools



• DARBIES •

- Made of wood or magnesium
- 28 to 45 inches long
- Taper from about 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide at heel to about 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches at toe
- Long darbies (36 to 45 inches) usually have two or three handholds for better finishing control

• EDGERS •

- Constructed of bronze or stainless or blue steel
- 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 6 inches wide by 6 to 10 inches long
- Lip (which forms the edge) ranges from $\frac{1}{4}$ to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep and $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 inch in radius
- Use special edgers for steps and curbs; long handles permit edging while standing (called walking edgers)

• FLOATS •

- Made of wood or magnesium
- 3 to 4 inches wide by 12 to 24 inches long
- Woods with different textures and densities provide varying surface finishes
- Use rounded-corner or beveled-edge floats in tight corners

• BULL FLOATS •

- Blades are made of wood, aluminum, or magnesium
- Blades are 8 inches wide and 3 to 8 feet long
- Handles usually are made of metal, but use fiberglass handles when working around electricity
- Handles are 4 to 10 feet long and interlock to create 20-foot-long handles

• GROOVERS •

- Constructed of stainless steel or bronze
- 2 to 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide by 3 to 9 inches long
- V (which cuts the groove) ranges from $\frac{3}{8}$ to 2 inches deep
- Use special groovers to form vertical grooves in curbs and steps; walking groovers also are available

• TROWELS •

- Made of blue, stainless, or high-carbon steel
- 3 to 5 inches wide by 10 to 24 inches long
- Some trowel blades are machine-ground to provide a curved, broken-in feel
- Use midget trowels (7 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 3-inch blade) and pool trowels (rounded blade) to finish small areas and curved surfaces
- Fresnos are rounded-end trowels designed to attach to bull float handles