Going Reviews: Fiskars StaySharp Max Reel Mower â€“ The Healthiest Way to Mow!

Description

How much do you depend on gas? Not too long ago, it was used mostly for various modes of transportation; planes, trains, and automobiles. Our grandparentsâ€™ generation didnâ€™t have gas-powered blades to cut their lawn, nope; they used manual push mowers!

Hmmm, and come to think of it, people werenâ€™t as concerned about obesity back thenâ€¦..interesting. Well, push mowers havenâ€™t left, they only improved, and I think Iâ€™ve had the pleasure of using the best.

I loathe using gas power to do something as simple as cutting grass. So, when I saw the Fiskars StaySharp Max Reel Mower, I knew I *had* to have it to prepare for the weekly battle against growing grass. No, hippie, not that kind!

No thanks!

I mentioned in a previous post how excited I was when I wrote Fiskars asking if theyâ€™d send one for my review and they graciously agreed!

Setup was fast and easy; even Avery enjoyed helping me get it together!

In another post, I wrote about my first experience with the Fiskars Reel Mower while wearing my daughter, Avery, in an Onya Baby Outback carrier.

I think Onyaâ€™s carrier and Fiskarsâ€™ reel mower is a perfect combo for the active parent; even the color schemes match! Even after a mowing when it just rained, I can happily say I enjoy reel mowing! I wore Avery every time and she even fell asleep within a few minutes. So now Iâ€™m saving gas,

exercising, mowing the lawn, and getting Avery to take a nap; perfect!

Hereâ€™s a quick video of the Fiskars in action with me wearing Avery:

It helps that, unlike other reel mowers, Fiskars StaySharp Max uses super durable steel blades that cut grass without touching each other. This makes the mower very quiet (even enough for naptime) and means no annual sharpening of the blades like many reel mowers.

If youâ€™re concerned about it being too difficult to push, Fiskars has you covered. Along with the blades not touching, they have the only reel mower with adjustable blade height to change depending on how tall your grass is.

Here are the key features that Fiskars provides on their website:

- The smart design of our eco-friendly reel mower offers a cleaner cut without the hassles of gasoline, oil, battery charging, electrical cords or loud engine noise
- Received Popular Mechanics 2010 Green Design Award and recommended by Consumer Reports over other reel mowers among other accolades

- A combination of advanced technologies make the StaySharpâ„¢ Max Reel Mower 60% easier to push than other reel mowers
- Patent-pending InertiaDriveâ„¢ Reel delivers twice the cutting power to blast through twigs, weeds and tough spots that would jam other reel mowers
- Exclusive StaySharpâ„¢ Cutting System uses precision-ground, hardened steel blades to cut grass without touching, greatly reducing friction and blade wear for long-lasting performance without costly annual blade sharpening
- Patent-pending VersaCutâ„¢ Technology offers cut height settings from 1â€³â€“4â€³ to provide best-in-class cutting, even when youâ€™ve missed a week of mowing, plus one-touch height adjustment for comfortable use
- Inset wheel design allows the blades to extend across the full width of the mower to eliminate uncut strips under the wheels and edge closer to foundations, fences and borders than other reel mowers
- Unique grass discharge chute throws clippings forward cleanly, away from your feet
- Cuts all grass types, even tough southern varieties like St. Augustine, Zoysia, Bahia and Bermuda
- 18â€³ cut width
- Limited three-year warranty

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With the 18 inch cutting width (very good for a reel mower!), I am able to mow our front and back yard in 30 to 40 minutes as long there are no obstructions. Yes, this is while wearing my baby, so it could be even faster. But I donâ€™t mind, just a longer nap and more exercise, right?

Compared to a gas mower, the reel mower doesnâ€™t cut the grass as cleanly, but itâ€™s not far behind. Our lawn still looks good when Iâ€™m done and I happy with its performance.

I used to hate having a gas mower and fighting to get it started for the first time before every mow, and the maintenance can be time consuming and costly. Plus, the noise, ugh, I despised walking behind the gas-guzzler as it droned everything out around me.

Now, I can actually talk to Going Mom while mowing and really enjoy it more than I ever thought I would. But, everything has a negative sideâ€¦..

- The inset wheel design does allow for greater overall cutting width and to get close to edges on borders and fences, but if the surface is sloped near these edges, it can be frustrating. When trying to mow along our slightly sloped fence line, the mower keeps gravitating into the fence and I have to readjust. This occurs with gas mowers too, but since they are heavier, itâ€™s not as often.
- The mower spits grass out of the front and away from you, but with any wind around, that grass might end up in your face. Itâ€™s not always, but something that can be annoying, especially when wearing your baby! Of course, Fiskars offers a Grass Catcher which solves this problem. I havenâ€™t tried it, but might get one soon.
- It just wonâ€™t cut some patches of grass. I will go over and over the patch, but it doesnâ€™t seem to do the job. This is usually weeds and doesnâ€™t happen often though.
- Beware of mulch and other small, hard objects! Any mulch around our trees and garden that finds its way into the yard has the ability to stop the mower, and you, in its tracks. If youâ€™re going fast enough, you might power through it, but just try and clean your yard from obstructions before starting.

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Issues aside, I am happy with the Fiskars StaySharp Max Reel mower and would recommend one to anyone with a yard smaller than an acre. If thatâ€™s you, and you want a â€œgreenerâ€• way to care for your lawn while getting a great workout too, then look no further than Fiskars. For just $199 and free shipping on Amazon, itâ€™s cheaper than most gas mowers and youâ€™ll never have to fill it up or add oilâ€¦.EVER!

Yard complete and Avery asleep.

I know Iâ€™ll be getting some good use with our Fiskars Reel Mower and look out for post in the near future on how to create a high intensity workout while mowing with Fiskars!

Do you or have you used a reel mower?

If so, what kind and how does it compare to the Fiskars StaySharp Max?

Disclosure: Fiskars sent me their StaySharp Max Reel Mower to review free of charge, but I was not compensated otherwise. All thoughts and opinions and strictly my own.

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