

TrueCut MS360, MS360QS, MS361, MS361C, MS362, MS390

TrueCut Chainsaw Chain Replacement Manual

For Stihl Models MS360, MS360QS, MS361, MS361C, MS362, MS390

1. INTRODUCTION

This manual provides essential information for the safe and effective installation, operation, and maintenance of your TrueCut replacement chainsaw chain. Please read this manual thoroughly before attempting to install or use the chain. Proper understanding and adherence to these instructions will ensure optimal performance and extend the lifespan of your chain.

2. PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The TrueCut replacement chainsaw chain is designed for specific Stihl chainsaw models, offering a reliable cutting solution. This chain features a .325" LP (Low Profile) pitch, a .063" gauge, and consists of 74 drive links. It is engineered for low kickback performance, contributing to safer operation when properly installed and maintained.



Image of the TrueCut replacement chainsaw chain, coiled for packaging, showcasing its links and cutters.

3. COMPATIBILITY

This TrueCut replacement chainsaw chain is compatible with the following Stihl chainsaw models:

- Stihl MS360
- Stihl MS360 PRO
- Stihl 036 PRO
- Stihl MS360QS
- Stihl MS361
- Stihl MS361C
- Stihl MS362
- Stihl MS390

Always verify your chainsaw's specifications (pitch, gauge, and number of drive links) against the chain's specifications before installation to ensure proper fit and safe operation.

4. SAFETY INFORMATION

WARNING: Chainsaws are dangerous tools. Improper use or maintenance can result in serious injury or death. Always follow the safety guidelines provided in your chainsaw's original instruction manual in addition to these instructions.

- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):** Always wear appropriate PPE, including a helmet, eye protection, hearing protection, heavy-duty gloves, chainsaw chaps, and safety boots.
- **Read Manuals:** Familiarize yourself with both your chainsaw's manual and this chain replacement manual.
- **Power Off:** Always ensure the chainsaw engine is off and the spark plug cap is disconnected (for

gasoline models) or the battery is removed (for electric models) before performing any maintenance, including chain replacement.

- **Sharp Edges:** Chainsaw chains are sharp. Handle with extreme care to prevent cuts.
- **Stable Work Area:** Perform all maintenance on a stable, flat surface.

5. INSTALLATION (CHAIN REPLACEMENT)

Follow these steps to safely replace your chainsaw chain:

1. **Prepare the Chainsaw:** Ensure the chainsaw is turned off, the spark plug cap is disconnected (gasoline) or battery removed (electric), and the chain brake is disengaged.
2. **Loosen Bar Nuts:** Use a wrench to loosen the bar nuts that secure the clutch cover. Do not remove them completely yet.
3. **Remove Clutch Cover:** Remove the clutch cover. This will expose the sprocket and the guide bar.
4. **Remove Old Chain:** Carefully lift the guide bar slightly and remove the old chain from the sprocket and the guide bar groove.
5. **Clean Components:** Clean any sawdust, debris, or old oil from the guide bar groove, sprocket, and clutch cover area. Inspect the guide bar for wear and the sprocket for damage. Replace if necessary.
6. **Install New Chain:** Place the new TrueCut chain into the groove of the guide bar, ensuring the cutting edges are facing the correct direction (usually forward on the top of the bar). Loop the chain around the drive sprocket.
7. **Reattach Clutch Cover:** Position the guide bar back onto the studs and replace the clutch cover. Hand-tighten the bar nuts, but do not fully tighten them yet.
8. **Adjust Chain Tension:** Using the chain tensioning screw (typically located on the side of the chainsaw or on the clutch cover), adjust the chain tension. The chain should be snug against the bottom of the guide bar, but still able to be pulled freely by hand. There should be no slack on the underside of the bar, and the drive links should not come out of the bar groove.
9. **Tighten Bar Nuts:** While holding the tip of the guide bar up, fully tighten the bar nuts.
10. **Final Check:** Re-check chain tension. It may change slightly after tightening the bar nuts. Ensure the chain moves freely around the bar. Reconnect the spark plug cap or insert the battery.

6. OPERATION CONSIDERATIONS

While this manual focuses on the chain, proper operation of the chainsaw is crucial for chain performance and safety:

- **Chain Lubrication:** Ensure your chainsaw's oil reservoir is filled with appropriate bar and chain oil. The chain must be continuously lubricated during operation to prevent excessive wear and overheating.
- **Chain Tension Check:** Regularly check chain tension during operation, especially during the first hour of use with a new chain. A chain that is too loose can derail, and a chain that is too tight can cause premature wear to the chain, bar, and sprocket.
- **Cutting Technique:** Always follow safe cutting practices as outlined in your chainsaw's manual to minimize kickback and maintain control.

7. MAINTENANCE

Regular maintenance of your TrueCut chainsaw chain will ensure its longevity and cutting efficiency:

- **Cleaning:** After each use, clean the chain to remove sawdust, sap, and debris. A stiff brush and appropriate cleaning solution can be used.
- **Sharpening:** A sharp chain is essential for safe and efficient cutting. Sharpen the chain regularly using a round file of the correct diameter for a .325" LP chain (typically 4.8mm or 3/16"). Maintain the correct filing angles as specified by Stihl for optimal performance. If unsure, consult a professional.
- **Inspection:** Periodically inspect the chain for damaged or missing cutters, cracked drive links, or excessive wear. Replace the chain if any significant damage is found.
- **Storage:** When not in use, store the chain in a clean, dry place. Applying a light coat of oil can help prevent rust.

8. TROUBLESHOOTING

Here are some common issues related to chainsaw chains and their potential solutions:

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Chain not cutting efficiently / Sawdust instead of chips	Dull chain, incorrect sharpening angle, insufficient oil.	Sharpen chain, verify sharpening angles, check oil reservoir and pump.
Chain derails from guide bar	Chain too loose, worn guide bar groove, damaged drive links.	Adjust chain tension, inspect and replace guide bar if worn, inspect and replace chain if damaged.
Chain binds or smokes	Chain too tight, insufficient lubrication, dull chain.	Loosen chain tension, check oil reservoir and pump, sharpen chain.
Excessive vibration	Damaged chain, worn sprocket, bent guide bar.	Inspect and replace chain, sprocket, or guide bar as needed.

9. SPECIFICATIONS

- **Brand:** TrueCut
- **Chain Type:** Low Profile (LP)
- **Pitch:** .325"
- **Gauge:** .063"
- **Drive Links:** 74
- **Chain Length:** Approximately 74 inches (total length of chain)
- **Product Dimensions:** 3 x 2 x 6 inches (packaging dimensions)
- **Weight:** 12 ounces

10. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

As an aftermarket replacement part, specific warranty details may vary. Please refer to the original purchase documentation or contact the retailer for information regarding warranty coverage for this TrueCut chainsaw chain. For technical support or further inquiries, please contact TrueCut customer service or your authorized dealer.

Always ensure you are using the correct replacement parts for your equipment. Using incorrect parts can

void warranties and lead to unsafe operating conditions.