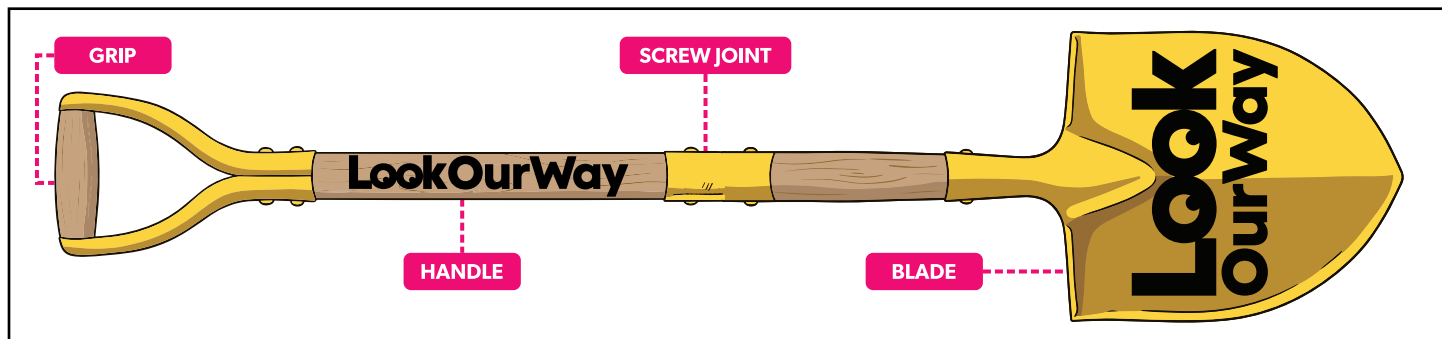


## Ceremonial Groundbreaking Shovel

This shovel is made for one big moment. A little preparation and simple care will give you a smooth first scoop — and a great photo — every time.

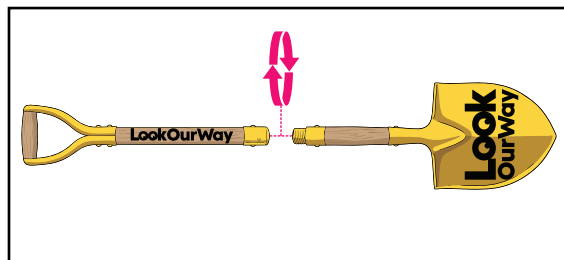
**Applies to:** 45" two-piece ceremonial shovel • Carbon steel blade with silver or gold electroplated finish • Natural wood handle



### 01 ASSEMBLY

- 1 Take both pieces out of the box and foam insert.
- 2 Line up the threaded ends and **screw them together by hand**.
- 3 Stop when the joint **snugs up**. The blade will be in the correct position.
- 4 Do not force it past snug or use tools. This can damage the threads or the wood.

**To take apart**, unscrew by hand and return both pieces to the box.



### 02 BEFORE THE BIG DAY

**Prepare the ground.** Loosen the soil where the ceremony will happen, or set out a pile or box of loose soil or sand. Remove rocks, roots, and debris.

**Practice first.** Have each person make a practice scoop. This helps them get a feel for the weight and motion of the shovel.

**Check the joint.** Make sure the handle is screwed together snugly before the ceremony starts.

**Plan the line-up.** If several people are breaking ground, space them about an arm's length apart so shovels do not hit each other.

### 03 THIS SHOVEL IS NOT A WORK TOOL

**IMPORTANT** This is a ceremonial shovel. Using it for real digging can bend the blade, loosen the handle, or damage the finish.

- Do not dig in hard, packed, or frozen ground.
- Do not pry, chop roots, or strike rocks or concrete.
- Do not lean on the shovel or use it as a lever.

## 04 HOW TO BREAK GROUND

- 1 Hold the shovel with **both hands**: one on the grip, one lower on the handle.
- 2 Place the blade on the **loose soil** at a slight angle.
- 3 Push the blade in **gently**. Only use your foot if the soil is soft.
- 4 Lift a **small scoop**, not a full load.
- 5 Turn and toss the soil **away from guests** and cameras.

**PHOTO TIP** Pose with the blade in the soil and pause for photos. Then lift and toss together on a count of three.



## 05 CLEANING

### DO

- Tap or brush off loose dirt right after the ceremony.
- Wipe the blade with a clean microfiber cloth.
- Wipe the wood handle with a dry or barely damp cloth.
- For stuck-on dirt, use a damp cloth with a little mild dish soap (like Dawn).
- Dry everything completely right after cleaning.

### DON'T

- Use alcohol or other solvents.
- Use abrasive pads, steel wool, wire brushes, or powdered cleaners. They scratch the plated finish.
- Spray with a hose, soak, or leave the shovel wet.
- Let the wood handle get soaked or sit near heat. It can warp or crack.

## 06 STORAGE & HANDLING

- Clean and dry the shovel before storing it.
- When not on display, unscrew the two pieces and keep them in the **original box with the foam insert and top protection**. Save all packaging for this.
- Store in a dry place, away from heat. Humidity can rust the blade where the plating is worn, and can swell the wood.
- Handle with clean, dry hands. Skin oils can leave marks on the plated finish.
- Carry the shovel with the blade pointed down and away from people.
- Do not stand the shovel on its blade edge for long periods.

