

Care And Feeding

The typical prop on the typical personal airplane doesn't need much attention between recommended inspection or overhaul periods. That doesn't mean it should be abused, however. Some tips from McCauley:

- **Avoid high-rpm operation when standing or taxiing over dirt, or gravel.**
- **Never use the propeller as a handle to move the airplane on the ground; severe damage can occur. Always use a towbar or other parts of the airframe.**
- **Have damage and irregularities such as dents, nicks or scratches dressed out by a mechanic before cracks develop.**
- **To clean a prop, use a clean cloth dampened in light oil to wipe it down. Never scrape the blades or use abrasive cleaners.**
- **A rough-running propeller could be caused by bent blades, plus dirt, snow or ice in the spinner. It may also result from improper mounting or out-of-tolerance blades.**