Bypass Lopper Buying & Care Guide

A ZoxDeal bonus companion to the Fiskars PowerGear2 32" Bypass Lopper review

1. Bypass vs Anvil — Pick the Right Tool

Bypass loppers work like scissors: one sharp blade sweeps past a hooked jaw. They make clean cuts on living wood, so wounds heal faster. Anvil loppers crush the branch against a flat plate — better for dead, dry wood, but they damage living tissue. Own both if you prune regularly.

2. Match Lopper Size to Your Trees

Handle length sets your leverage and reach. Use this quick guide:

- **25-inch:** lighter and easier to control — best for smaller gardeners and tight shrubs.
- **28 to 32-inch:** the sweet spot for fruit trees and 1 to 2-inch limbs.
- **Over 32-inch:** maximum reach, but heavy — only for big, open trees.

3. What to Check Before You Buy

- **Blade steel:** fully hardened steel holds an edge far longer than soft steel.
- **Gearing:** geared heads (like PowerGear2) multiply force — worth it above 1.5-inch cuts.
- **Warranty:** a lifetime warranty signals the maker trusts its own tool.
- **Weight:** hold the lopper at arm's length in the store — fatigue is real on long jobs.
- **Spare parts:** check blade and bumper availability before you commit.

4. Sharpening Basics

Sharpen only the beveled side of a bypass blade with a fine mill file or diamond stone. Follow the factory angle, use light strokes, and never grind the flat side — that ruins the bypass fit. A sharp blade needs less force, which keeps the handles from flexing.

5. Cleaning and Storage

- Wipe blades with rubbing alcohol after cutting sappy or diseased wood.
- Dry the tool fully before storage to prevent rust on the gear pivots.
- Oil the pivot bolt lightly once a season.
- Store hung up or with blade guards on — never loose in a pile.
- Keep bypass loppers away from soil contact; grit dulls edges fast.

6. Safety Checklist

- Wear gloves and eye protection — cut wood chips fly.
- Cut at a slight angle, just outside the branch collar.

- Never cut above shoulder height; use a pole pruner instead.
- Keep bystanders (and ladders) clear of falling limbs.

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