

Hi, I'm Sean Michael Ragan for Cool Tools, and in today's video, I wanna talk to you about garden hose nozzles, specifically the Gilmour 528T. I bought this one eight years ago and it's been installed at the end of this very hose, outdoors, in full sunlight, pretty much continuously ever since.

Twisting the outer shell clockwise opens the valve to give a wide, gentle spray, at first, and as you continue twisting, it narrows down to a tight, focused stream. And if you keep twisting, the two halves eventually come apart, and you can see that it's really a very simple device.

The metal parts are solid brass, which has picked up a bit of a patina over the years, so let's start by giving those a polish. I'm just using a bit of Bar Keeper's Friend and a scrap of ScotchBrite, here. Then I'll rinse it with warm water and dry it with a clean cloth. There, that's Better.

This design has only three plastic parts--a rubber hose washer and two o-rings--that could probably all be replaced for ten cents. But even after eight years, these original parts are still going strong because, when the nozzle is assembled, all the polymer bits are concealed inside where they're not exposed to the sun's deadly ultraviolet radiation.

Well, deadly to plastics, anyway. While there are some synthetic polymers that will hold up to years of sun exposure, most of them will start to fade and crumble after just one or two summers, like this.

My other big no-no for outdoor equipment is anything that uses iron or non-stainless steels. Even if they've been galvanized or plated with something else, eventually those parts are gonna rust, as you can see on this junk.

Both these sprayers are newer and were more expensive than my Gilmour 528T, but they're both now useless, while it's still going strong.

So, in short, this thing's great. I just bought a new one, for eleven bucks, planning to show you that even after eight years of use, the old one is still literally as good as new. Unfortunately, when I went to unscrew the nozzle on this new one, I discovered that it no longer comes off.

Now, there's this internal retaining ring which stops you from removing the outer shell. I suppose there may be some people who see that as a feature because now the two parts can't get separated from each other and lost (and also because it keeps you from accidentally doing this) but personally I'd rather be able to take the nozzle apart in case I want to clean it or maybe eventually replace the internal o-rings. So, this change, to me, is not an improvement, and I was disappointed to see it. But it gets worse.

From the hose end, you can see that the old one is made from one continuous piece of

machined brass, whereas the new one...I dunno if that's threaded or swaged or what, but there's clearly a new mechanical joint here and thus a new potential failure point.

I did find a couple better options, though. This Dramm 12380 is considerably more expensive at \$16, but it's also quite a bit heavier than the 528T and it is made in the USA. It operates on the same principle as this old one that I know and trust, it's built in the same way from two pieces of solid brass with no extra mechanical unions, and all the plastic parts can be easily removed and Replaced.

The other option here is also made by Gilmour and it's actually cheaper than the 528T at just \$7. It does have these black rubber gripping surfaces, and I know it might seem odd to recommend that after ranting about exposed plastic parts on these things, but check it out. This part can be pried off, and underneath it's solid brass.

And this part, though it takes a bit more work to remove it without cutting, is likewise solid brass underneath. And when we take the whole thing apart, it has the exact same internal construction as the original model 528T I wanted to recommend to you in the first place.

So you can pay four dollars less for this guy, and even if the rubber falls apart in the sun after just a month, you can just cut those parts off, throw 'em away, and use it like this. And you'll still be better off than if you'd spent almost twice as much to buy this one that can't be taken apart and that has this new mechanical failure point to worry about.

OK, thank you for watching. As always, you'll find an affiliate link in the description field down below the video. If we've persuaded you to buy a hose nozzle, please use that link to make your purchase to help support this channel, as well as our blog and podcast over at cool-tools.org. We'll see you next time.

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