



## Screw Removal Solutions

Curb Allure's tree guards are unique in many ways, including its modular construction and breakaway brackets; however, if the screws don't loosen when repairs are required, here are some solutions. These potential issues and suggestions are presented in the order of most to least frequently observed:

### **First Possibility: Soil and dirt buildup in Screw heads**

**What Happened:** Proximately to the soil and not washing guard frequently.

**First Solution:** Brush and Excavate

- **Brush:** Take hot water and an old toothbrush and remove debris from the grooves in the screw head particularly on the lower rails.
- **Excavate** (if needed): Get a long sewing needle to assist with debris removal.

### **Second Possibility: Screws won't loosen**

**What Happened?** During installation, the torque setting was set over the recommended level.

**Second Solution:** Oil, Wait and Retry

- **Oil:** Purchase a standard penetrating oil. There are several that we have found equally as effective such as WD40, or there are slightly more expensive products that can also be used for corrosion issues in the future such as CRC Freeze Off or Blaster Corrosion Stop.
- **Wait:** The longer you wait the easier screws release. Wait at least 20 minutes, but overnight is the best solution.
- **Retry:** The longer you wait the easier screws release. Wait at least 20 minutes, but overnight is the best solution.
- **Third Solution:** If this doesn't work, follow instructions in Solution 3.



## **Problem Three: Screw heads/threads are stripped OR Screw is Bent**

**What Happened:** When installed, torque levels were set at maximum.

**Third Solution** (Curb Allure Screws): Forcibly remove screw or replace post. If you want to only repair the bracket versus replace the post:

- **Break bracket:** If bracket is already broken skip to the “**Remove**” step.
- **Cut:** With a grinder or Sawzall, cut through the Breakaway Bracket from the top.
- **Remove:** Remove the end of the cut screws from the post using a pair of vice grips.
- **Purchase:** Purchase new brackets, rail and screws from Curb Allure and replace **OR**
- **Unfasten:** With a ¼” tipped pair of vice grips, grasp the head of the screw in the groove and take a pair of channel lock pliers or a 1.5” open ended wrench, remove the lower half of the breakaway bracket and lift out the screw.
- **Replace:** Fasten new bracket onto post and reattach rail.

**Third Solution** (Phillips Head Screws):

- **Purchase:** At your local hardware store purchase a ¼” Easy Out and follow directions on the package.
- **Replace:** Fasten new bracket onto post and reattach rail.

## **Problem Four: Corrosion buildup around screws**

**What happened?:** Excessive exposure to dog urine or incorrect installation or normal wear over time.

**Forth Solution:** Penetrate the screw heads and tap.

- **Purchase:** Purchase CRC Freeze Off.
- **Spray:** On each screw head, spray for 10 seconds. Wait as long as possible, overnight preferably, but at least 15 minutes.
- **Tap:** With the end of a screwdriver, tap with force around the area of the screw head to help break the corrosion and loosen the screw. Try to



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loosen the screw with a driver but do not use so much force that you strip the head. Repeat if necessary and wait longer for the spray to penetrate.

- **Solution 3:** If this doesn't work, follow instructions in Solution 3.

Applying WD40, CRC Freeze Off or Blaster Corrosion Stop annually when tighten your screws (as recommended in the Curb Allure care instructions) will help keep your screws more easily removable in the future.