

SPECIALITY BLADES

AFTERMARKET AUTOMOTIVE PARTS SPECIALISTS OFFER A RANGE OF BLADE DESIGNS TO MEET VARIOUS CUSTOMER NEEDS.

Winter blades have an anti-clogging feature — a rubber boot — that keeps ice and snow out of the blade structure and prevents the blade from freezing up. Drivers benefit from consistent wiper performance regardless of weather conditions for safer winter driving. The downside to this protection is that when driving at higher speeds, wind will lift the booted blades, preventing them from making full contact with the window and reducing their wipe quality.

Premium blades have valuable features, which include smooth, quiet operation, superior wiping performance and longer life. If these features are important enough to you, you may not mind paying the higher price.

DRIVERS BENEFIT
FROM CONSISTENT
WIPER PERFORMANCE
REGARDLESS OF
WEATHER
CONDITIONS FOR
SAFER WINTER
DRIVING.

*For more information
about your vehicle
and how to care for it,
contact your nearby
CAA Approved Auto Repair Service facility.
To find the AARS facility nearest you,
call your local CAA office
or visit www.caa.ca.*

Important safety information: Due to the complex nature of today's vehicles, it is essential that you use the utmost care when working on your car or truck. Before attempting any service or repair, consult your owner's manual. Be sure that you understand the service procedure completely, have the proper tools and adhere to all safety precautions, including handling instructions for any chemicals you are using. If you are unsure about any repair, consult a professional technician.



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ADVICE FROM CAA

WINDSHIELD WIPERS



WINDSHIELD WIPERS: CLEARLY NECESSARY

DUST, RAIN, POLLEN AND BUGS ARE A FEW OF THE MANY REASONS WE ARE ALL GRATEFUL FOR THE INVENTION OF HAND-OPERATED WINDSHIELD WIPERS IN 1916. Today, hand operation is unimaginable; we're spoiled by the advantages of dual wiper blades, windshield washers, and variable-speed, intermittent wipers. However, with all their sophistication, wipers still do not automatically replace themselves.

And they don't last forever. The life of the rubber blade is typically about six to 12 months, depending upon their exposure to elements such as heat, road pollution, acid rain and ozone. Streaking, chattering and noisy operation are clues that the rubber is breaking down and nearing the end of its usefulness.

To check your blades, get behind the steering wheel of your parked car and press the button to squirt your windshield with washer fluid. (You might want to check your reservoir of washer fluid while you're at it.) Watch to see if the wiper is efficiently removing fluid. If streaks are left behind, it may be time to change your wipers.

Clean

Keep in mind that on a dirty windshield, even wipers in good condition may leave streaks. For a true test of the wipers' effectiveness, clean the glass first and then clean your wipers. Take some of the same washer fluid that you put into your washer reservoir, place it on a rag or a paper towel and clean the rubber part of the wiper to remove any dirt or build-up. Removing the dirt allows the rubber blade to make better

contact with the window. Don't forget to check the wiper blade on the back glass if you have a vehicle with rear-window wipers.

Inspect

If after cleaning, the wipers still do not clean the fluid off the window, inspect the rubber. A good wiper blade should stand up straight and the rubber should be soft, flexible and without cracks. Sunlight and ozone age rubber, causing it to lose its natural elasticity. Eventually the rubber will harden and crack, reducing the blade's ability to wipe cleanly and quietly.

Replace

If the rest of the windshield wiper components are in good condition, you can avoid the cost of buying the entire wiper blade by looking for replacement rubber blades, often called "refills" on the packaging. These refills are sold in pairs and are available in various lengths — from 46 to 66 centimetres for most model cars. Before you choose a replacement set, you'll need to know the proper length of your wiper blade as well as the original manufacturer. Look on the metal part of the blade; the manufacturer's name is usually stamped there.

All wiper blades are made a little differently. Many have metal tabs on the end. These tabs lock the rubber blade into place on the arm. Squeezing the tabs together should allow you to pull out the old rubber blade. Squeeze the tabs again to insert the new rubber blade. It is important to read and follow the directions on the refill package to ensure you replace them correctly.

If the entire wiper blade needs to be replaced, you can do this yourself; but be sure to read the instructions on the replacement package carefully. It is important to be gentle. Force is not required and could bend crucial components out of alignment. You may want to ask the salesperson at your local automotive parts store if there is someone who can install the blades for you. Many stores will install wiper blades at no cost for customers.



The above example shows a common type of wiper blade connector, which attaches the blade to the wiper arm.