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When wipers won't wipe...

It's bad enough that your windshield washer fluid is freezing on your windshield, now the wipers are only moving the dirt around. What can you do? It starts with choosing the right wiper blades. Hardly anybody thinks about the wiper blades— after all, they won't cost you big bucks at the service outlet.

Well, they might cost you big bucks at the body shop. Defensive driving instructors will tell you that vision of the road and the traffic around you is your most potent defense against collisions. Keeping a clean windshield is a good start.

Just as there is seasonal windshield washer fluid, there are seasonal and high performance wiper blades. The Car Care Council recommends switching blades every six months, in the spring and fall. Winter wiper blades are typically well-protected against ice and snow build up so that the rubber wiping blade remains flat on the windshield. The rubber used has better cold weather performance, too.

Living in a fine climate is no guarantee against wiper blade deterioration— even sunlight can cause the rubber to age and crack in a relatively short time.

Common Problems To Watch Out For

- Cracked or split rubber— usually caused by ultraviolet rays or overly aggressive ice removal.

- Pitted, scarred, or discoloured rubber— usually caused by salt removing chemicals.

- Torn rubber— where the rubber has pulled away from the arm and is slipping out or slapping against the glass.

- Chattering or squeaking sound as the blades work— usually caused by blades warped through infrequent use or

exposure to strong sunlight— the blades take on a permanent curvature, instead of conforming to your windshield.

- Worn rubber— old blades will exhibit rounded or ragged edges, which will not clean properly.

- Windshield streaking— can result from tree sap or road tar on the blades, from cracked, inflexible rubber, or from blades clogged with snow or ice.

So how do you go about getting the best performance from your windshield wipers?

First, clean off the whole windshield— don't try to look through a porthole. Gently remove ice from around the wiper blade, and make sure the arm can move freely.

Clean the snow off the hood, too, otherwise, it will wind up in your face as soon as you drive away. Before your car has come up to operating temperature, your ability to melt that snow on the windshield is limited, and it will likely smear. The same holds true for the roof of your car or van— that snow will wind up all over your rear window, and cause difficulty with your rear window wiper (if you have one).

Have you ever had the experience of driving away with a clear view of the road, only to have your windshield fog over instantly? That's usually the result of snow being drawn in through the defrost system. This is less likely to happen if you clean out your air intake on the hood.

The lowly wiper blade. Just a few simple steps can keep it invisible, and help you keep your eyes on the road.

—Automotive Industries Association Of Canada

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- Tire rotation
- Visual inspection of: brakes, exhaust system, shock absorbers, front and rear suspension, battery cables and connectors, all belts and fluid levels
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- Test of: coolant for temperature protection, battery capacity and all lights and signals

* Applicable to most cars and light trucks. Vehicles equipped with diesel engines are extra. Taxes and provincial levies not included, where applicable. At participating Ford of Canada dealers only. Dealers may sell for less. Ask your Service Advisor for full details. Offer expires December 31, 2000.

Batteries

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Motorcraft® Tested Tough Series (WTBXL)

Includes:

- 18 month free replacement
- 84 month warranty

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Motorcraft® Silver Series (WTBXT)

Includes:

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Brakes

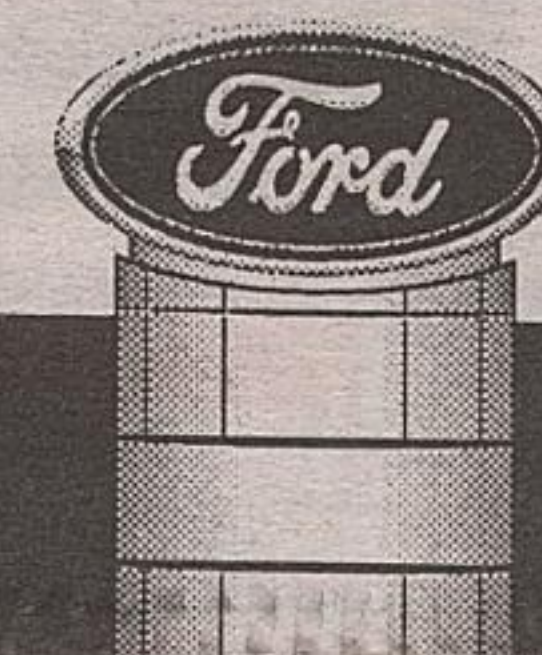
\$109^{99*}

Motorcraft® Preferred Value Brakes

Includes:

- Installation of Motorcraft® Preferred Value front or rear brake pads
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* Excludes machining of rotors and drums.
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