

## Majestic Lube Professional Tip

### Windshield Wiper Blades

Windshield wiper blades don't get the respect they deserve. After all, they remove rain, snow and sometimes ice and dirt from the windshield of your car. And they do it quickly and smoothly, at the push of a button. They endure extremes of temperature, from sub-zero Minnesota winter weather to scorching Nevada sun. They may have to operate for hours at a time. And yet they're made out of thin, flexible rubber ... not exactly the sort of material that can take this kind of abuse indefinitely.

This makes windshield wiper blades one of the hardest working - yet least durable - parts of your car. Over time, they'll crack, become misshapen or lose their flexibility. And don't think that just because you live in a sunny dry climate without much rain (Nevada, for instance) that your wiper blades will last longer. Heat and lack of moisture can damage the blades even if you never turn them on. Similarly, extremely cold weather can make the blades stiff and easily fractured.

Experts say that wiper blades need to be changed every six to 12 months, but this depends both on weather conditions and what the blades are made out of. Ordinary rubber blades have the shortest lifespan, halogen-hardened rubber blades last a bit longer and silicone blades have the longest lifetimes of all, perhaps exceeding a year even under intense use (of course they also cost a little more than ordinary rubber blades).

You'll know when your wiper blades need to be replaced because you'll see streaking as they wipe the moisture from the windshield or even gaps where no water is being removed. They may start making squeaking or chattering sounds (though this can also happen if you run the wipers when the windshield is mostly dry). If left unchanged for too long, the material of the blade will shred and break loose from the arm. This can actually cause damage to your windshield, when the metal or hard plastic of the arm scrapes across the glass. You don't want this to happen!

Fortunately, you usually don't have to replace the entire blade assembly. Most blade arms will accept wiper refills, giving you the option of replacing only the part that's damaged. However, blade arms do become bent over time, so make sure that the refill is all that you need to replace in order to fix the problem.

You can be in and out of **Majestic Lube** with crisp new blades in 15 minutes. Why not have us check them now or at least the next time you have us change oil and filter?

For more information about windshield wiper blades, see your **Majestic Lube Professional**.