VOLVO GENUINE WIPER BLADES

The job of the wiper blades is to remove water and dirt from the windscreen, and to do this properly in all conditions - at all weathers and at all speeds. Since wiper blades are so important for visibility, they should be considered as an important safety feature.

Rain, snow, muddy roads, high speeds – the wiper blades must be able to perform well under a variety of conditions. Considering the fact that approximately 20% of all road accidents are related to lack of visibility, it also becomes clear that windscreen wipers must be seen as safety components.

Therefore, it is important that Volvo owners follow the recommendations to check their wiper blades twice a year and change their wiper blades once a year.

This applies even if the wiper blades haven’t been in use much, since the ageing of the rubber affects the wiping performance. As the rubber ages, it becomes harder, resulting in deteriorating wiping performance. Lines of water on the windscreen, vibrations, noise, smears and inability to remove dirt properly can impair the driver’s situation and compromise visibility and consequently driving safety. The wiper blades wear as a result of usage on wet, icy or dry surfaces; but especially as a result of being exposed to the UV radiation of sunlight.

DEMANDS ON VOLVO GENUINE WIPER BLADES

Key performance parameters for Volvo Genuine wiper blades are:

- The right rubber quality, offering a proper sharp clean cut (reducing noise at reverse movement), durability and good wiping performance in both cold and hot weather.
- The right design, with optimized pressure distribution, careful choice of materials and exact precision.

The rubber in Volvo Genuine wiper blades have a graphite layer which decreases the friction and noise and increases the lifetime of the blades. There is also an integrated spoiler that helps secure the contact with the windscreen under higher speeds.

These are some of the properties of wiper blades that are tested in laboratories and on cars before they are approved as Volvo Genuine wiper blades:

- Rubber properties (hardness, elongation, staining)
- Wiping performance on stationary car and at high speeds
- Durability at reduced wiping angle
- Structural mechanical resistance (lateral force, impact)
- Heat and cold tests
- Resistance to corrosion, ozone and chemicals

VCVS’ strategy is to offer a complete range of Volvo specified, tested and branded wiper blade kits for all Volvo cars in and out of production. The recommendation from Volvo is to replace wiper blades every 12 months.
SELLING POINTS FOR WIPER BLADES

1. AMONG THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF GRAPHITE FOR BETTER CONTACT WITH THE WINDSCREEN
The rubber in Volvo Genuine wiper blades have a graphite layer which decreases the friction and noise and increases the lifetime of the blades. The result is better visibility and less risk for noise and vibrations. Volvo wiper blades are among the ones that contain the highest level of graphite.

2. CLEAR VISIBILITY THANKS TO SMOOTH AND STEADY WIPE ACTION IN ALL WEATHERS AND AT ALL SPEEDS
Volvo Genuine wiper blades have the right properties for good durability and optimum wiping performance in both cold and hot conditions. They have been designed for optimized pressure distribution along the blade, with careful choice of materials and with exact precision.

3. CAREFULLY TESTED FOR OPTIMUM PERFORMANCE ON VOLVO CARS
Volvo Genuine wiper blades have been carefully tested before approval, both in laboratories and on cars. Some of the properties that are tested are rubber hardness, wiping performance on stationary car and in high speeds, durability, mechanical resistance, performance in lower and higher temperatures, and resistance to corrosion, ozone and chemicals.

PRODUCT TEST

INDEPENDENT TEST OF WIPER BLADES
To investigate the quality of wiper blades, a large daily newspaper in Sweden commissioned an independent research company to test the most common wiper blades on the Swedish market.

Four separate laboratory tests were conducted on wiper blades for a Volvo S40. The following characteristics were tested:

• Cleaning – how clean does a dirty surface become after being wiped by the blades?
• UV radiation – the rubber is aged, dried and cracked by sunlight, but by how much?
• Cold – a wiper blade should be just as soft in minus temperatures. Is this the case?
• Wear and tear – different wiper blades wear differently depending on quality and external influences. How well did the blades do?

The most important test is the one that examines the effectiveness of cleaning. After spraying the windscreen with a mixture of fine sand, coal dust and distilled water, the wipers were turned on (a normal test method for simulating road dirt). The amount of light that penetrated the windscreen – in other words, the amount of dirt that is left – was then measured in the laboratory.

The undisputed winner of this test was the Volvo Genuine wiper blade which obtained the maximum score of five points. When it came to resistance to sunlight, the wiper blade that was by far the most expensive did best, but it had problems when it came to withstanding the cold.

Generally speaking, the results were fairly good. At the same time, Volvo Genuine emerged as the clear-cut winner, with an average score of 4.6 on a five-point scale.
(Source: Goteborgs-Posten 2006)

NEW TEST IN 2012 CONFIRMS THE SUPERIOR PERFORMANCE
In February 2012, Volvo Cars’ R&D department tested Volvo Genuine wiper blades against a number of competitor products at the Hällered proving ground in Sweden. This internal test clearly showed that Volvo Genuine wiper blades performed better than non-genuine products when tested under real conditions.