

Heated Wiper Blades

Everblades heated wiper blades have been around for more than 20 years. Recent product improvements make them even more effective, says Jim Weiler, W.N. Miller Co., owner of the Everblades brand.

“The blades use a silicone rubber material. The squeegee profile is hinged so that the wiping edge flips back and forth. The blades wipe exceptionally clean.”

“The one thing that people need to remember is that these are not defrosters. The silicone/rubber blades should not be used before the windshield has been defrosted.”

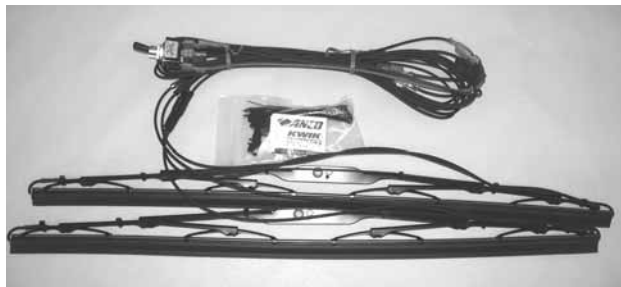
The specially designed blades have a heating element inside the squeegee and are designed to heat up to about 200 degrees F in the manufacturing process.

For an additional cost, the company can also heat the blade structure (above

the wiper) to help prevent freezing of the moving parts. This helps ensure that the wiper adheres to the windshield properly.

Other improvements to the product include a heavy-duty LED toggle switch, and automotive grade 18-gauge wiring that is designed to remain flexible down to minus 60 degrees F. Installation takes about a half hour. Once installed, simply flip the switch and accumulated snow and ice on the blades is melted, or prevented from building up to begin with.

Everblades cost more than regular wiper blades but the improvements in vision, productivity, and safety make them well worth the extra cost. Everblades range in



Everblades kits come complete with all the required wiring, fuse and switch.

price from \$120 to \$140 depending on size and model. Refills and replacement blade assemblies run from \$30 to \$55.

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Rolling “Wheelchair Workbench”

“Ordinary wheelchairs can be used to make a low-cost portable workbench,” says Ken Grazier, Havre, Mont., who attached a 6-ft. long bed frame to a set of wheelchair wheels.

“Wheelchairs work for rolling work tables because they’re built strong and can hold up to about 400 lbs. per wheel,” says Grazier.

He cut off the wheelchair’s seat and front wheels, leaving just the rear wheels and handle. Then he bolted a 6-ft. bed frame to the handle. The bed frame is supported on front by the wheelchair’s front wheels.

The workbench has 2 levels made out of 1-in. pine boards. Toolboxes set on the top level and shop tools on the bottom level. Grazier extended the brakes for the wheelchair’s wheels by fitting a small metal wrench onto the end of each brake handle.

“I have another wheelchair caddy with a hinged plywood lid over the seat to store tools and other objects. The lid folds up, so if I want I can still use it as a chair,” says Grazier.

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The “Critttergetter” kit (left) uses engine exhaust to kill gophers and other underground pests. Rigid plastic adapter (center) clamps onto vehicle’s exhaust pipe. An 8-in. long pvc tube (right) is used to get gas into tunnels.

“Critttergetter” Pumps Exhaust Underground

The idea of using engine exhaust to kill gophers and other underground pests is as old as the internal combustion engine. But if you’ve ever tried to hook a garden hose up to a tail pipe, you know it’s not easy.

That’s why Chris Klimen came up with the “Critttergetter”, a kit that makes it easy to funnel exhaust into underground tunnels. It consists of a 9-in. long rigid plastic adapter that clamps onto the exhaust pipe; 50 ft. of clear plastic tubing; an adapter that fits onto the far end of the tubing, and a 1 1/2-in. dia., 8-in. long pvc tube that attaches to the end and is used to get gas into tunnels.

The holes don’t need to be sealed off because the gas is heavier than air and settles down into the tunnels.

“It’s simple to use and safe for the operator, since there’s no poison bait or explosions involved,” says inventor Chris Klimen. “Carbon monoxide is both convenient and inexpensive because it comes from a

vehicle’s exhaust. It reaches the burrow’s smallest hiding places.

“It works better than using an adapter that hooks up to a garden hose because the tubing is much bigger than a garden hose and can handle far more volume.”

Two homeowner models are available and come with a 50-ft. long lightweight plastic hose, with additional 50-ft. hose extensions available. They fit exhaust pipes up to 3 and 4 in. in dia. and sell for \$31.99 and \$36.99 plus S&H, respectively. A heavier-duty model called the “Original Critttergetter” uses an industrial grade, high temperature hose that’s available in lengths from 25 to 150 ft. It fits exhaust pipes from 2 to 4 in. dia. and starts at \$36.86 plus S&H.

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