

Wiper Blade Comparison Guide

There are many different types of wiper blades available, for example: standard wiper blades, spoiler wiper blades, flat wiper blades, flat wiper blade upgrades (or retrofit). A comparison about the different types and their uses and applications is below:



Standard (or conventional) Type Wiper Blades

Standard wiper blades are the most common type of windscreen wiper, often referred to as looking like a coat hanger and are still fitted to the majority of new vehicles, although this is in decline. They are usually attached to the vehicle using a hook shape wiper arm fitting. Sizes range from 10" to 28" and it is not uncommon to have different sizes fitted to the driver and passenger sides of the windscreen.



Spoiler Type Wiper Blades

These types of wiper blades feature a full spoiler that runs the length of the blade. This helps to keep the blade closer to the windscreen at higher speeds and is usually designed for the drivers' side only. Again they are usually attached to the vehicle by means of a hook shaped wiper arm fitting.



Flat Wiper Blades

Flat wiper blades feature a totally new style and technology and are fast becoming the standard fit on new vehicles. These types of wiper blades do not have a metal 'coat hanger' shaped frame. Instead they have a tensioned metal strip running within the rubber structure of the wiper blade. This design allows for a flatter aerodynamic shape which reduces wind noise. The internal metal strip applies constant pressure along the length of the blade and has a built in spoiler. Being smaller than a conventional wiper it

also provides less obstruction to the driver's field of vision.

If your vehicle had these type of wiper blades fitted from new then you can only replace them with a similar type of flat blade. They will not have a hook shaped wiper arm fitting. The most common type of wiper arm fittings for flat wiper blades are known as Side Pin, Bayonet, Pinch Tab, Push Button and Slider.

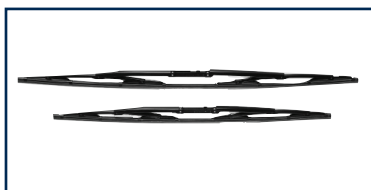


Flat Wiper Blade Upgrade (or Retrofit)

Flat wiper blades feature a totally new style and technology and are fast becoming the standard fit on new vehicles. These types of wiper blades do not have a metal 'coat hanger' shaped frame. Instead they have a tensioned metal strip running within the rubber structure of the wiper blade. This design allows for a flatter aerodynamic shape which reduces wind noise. The internal metal strip applies constant pressure along the length of the blade and has a built in spoiler. Being smaller than a conventional wiper it

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All flat blade retrofit wiper blades have a special adaptor mechanism incorporated within the wiper structure which allows this type of wiper blade to be fitted to cars with conventional hooked style wiper arms. No other alteration is required so upgrading is as easy as fitting standard wiper blades.



Specific Fit Wiper Blades

Specific Fit wiper blades are usually Original Equipment replacements and are designed for specific vehicles. Many rear blades are unique in design and need to be replaced with this type of wiper blade.

Saxon

Everland Road, Hungerford
Berkshire, RG17 0DX, UK
Telephone: 01488 689 400
e-mail: info@saxon-brands.com
Website: www.saxon-brands.com

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