

Troubleshooting Basic Windshield Wiper Problems

Problem	Cause	Solution
Electric Wipers		
Wipers do not operate— Wiper motor heats up or hums	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal motor defect • Bent or damaged linkage • Arms improperly installed on linking pivots 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace motor • Repair or replace linkage • Position linkage in park and reinstall wiper arms
Electric Wipers		
Wipers do not operate— No current to motor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fuse or circuit breaker blown • Loose, open or broken wiring • Defective switch • Defective or corroded terminals • No ground circuit for motor or switch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace fuse or circuit breaker • Repair wiring and connections • Replace switch • Replace or clean terminals • Repair ground circuits
Wipers do not operate— Motor runs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linkage disconnected or broken 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect wiper linkage or replace broken linkage
Vacuum Wipers		
Wipers do not operate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Control switch or cable inoperative • Loss of engine vacuum to wiper motor (broken hoses, low engine vacuum, defective vacuum/fuel pump) • Linkage broken or disconnected • Defective wiper motor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repair or replace switch or cable • Check vacuum lines, engine vacuum and fuel pump • Repair linkage • Replace wiper motor
Wipers stop on engine acceleration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaking vacuum hoses • Dry windshield • Oversize wiper blades • Defective vacuum/fuel pump 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repair or replace hoses • Wet windshield with washers • Replace with proper size wiper blades • Replace pump