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Twelve Tips for Longer Blade Life

1. Flip/Reverse the blade at regular intervals

Routinely flipping the blade can double the blade life. The time between flips depends on operator use and the type of application and material.

2. Do not back drag

Back dragging causes the edge to break before it wears down completely.

3. Always use corner attachments to corner with loader buckets

Corner guards protect the bucket from wearing out prematurely. Cornering without corner guards can reduce the bucket's strength.

4. Avoid excessive down pressure

The operator controls the degree of pressure exerted when the bucket engages with the ground. The less pressure exerted, the longer the bucket will last.

5. If possible, avoid using blades under wet conditions

Wet conditions cause blades to wear faster.

6. Check the position of the loader edge

The primary engagement edge should be the bolt-on cutting edge, not the base edge. The base edge is the primary support for the bucket system. A worn out base edge weakens the entire bucket structure.

7. Replace wear plates on loaders

Don't forget to look under the hood. Wear plates extend the life of both the cutting edge and the bucket. Adding new cutting edges to a bucket with a worn out wear plate will significantly increase the wear life of your bucket.

8. Use the correct bolts and nuts

Only use Grade 8 bolts and nuts, or higher. A lesser quality could cause the bolts to stretch, and then to loosen. With loose bolts and nuts, the blade is loose on the moldboard, which can result in "chattering" and, finally, breakage.

9. Check and tighten bolts routinely

Loose blades can be damaged easily. If the blades are being used for crushers and other processing equipment, a loose blade can fall into the equipment and destroy the processing machine.

10. Consider switching to SBC (single bevel curved) grader blades

The leading bevel on DBC blades wears out almost immediately, becoming, in effect, an SBC. SBC blades give you longer wear life and better value.

11. Consider using thicker edges

Machines are much more powerful now than they were years ago. They can often use thicker edges and, in many cases, they *should* use the thicker edges.

12. When using carbide snowplow blades, use a standard flat blade as a cover blade to protect the carbide edge

It is necessary to use a much softer, millable steel (usually 30 carbon steel) in the carbide edges when manufacturing carbide blades. This steel will sometimes "wash away" causing the carbide inserts to fall out.

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