**Frequently Asked Questions – Clipper Blades**

**How do I keep blades from getting dull?**

Blades become dull when dirt, grit and dander get in between the cutting surfaces of the blade. Always bath and brush the dog prior to clipping as the fur has to be clean or your blades could get damaged as dirt and sand gets in between the teeth.

Also oiling your blades is important, as a general rule, for every 10 minutes of clipping time you need to oil your blades.

These two things will increase how long your blades stay sharp.

**Why do my blades get hot so fast?**

The biggest problem for hot blades is that clippers run so fast than what they did many years ago. The faster the clipper runs, the more heat is generated to the blade.

Blade Tensioning this can also cause blades to heat up. If the tension is too tight this will cause heat.

**What is the best way to keep the blades from heating up?**

Lubrication! By keeping your blades cleaned and lubricated at all times. Blades should be oiled, before, during and after use. Keeping your blades clean and lubricated will increase the life of your blades.

**What happens if you don’t clean your blades?**

As dirt builds up things start to happen. The blade doesn’t cut like it should. As you go to clip it pulls the hair instead of cutting. Blades can also get hot faster due to lack of cleaning.

The easiest way to help with the blade heat problem is to have a few of the same sizes and rotate them when they get warm.

**How do I clean my blades?**

You can use a toothbrush and brush the hair out from between the teeth. Slide the top cutter across half way and clean out the hair then do the same again on the other side. Make sure you also oil the blades.
How should I store my blades?

Make sure your blades are cleaned and oiled before putting them away. Keep your blades away from areas with high moisture or humidity. If using any cleaning product such as blade wash, please make sure you air dry your blades or they will go rusty.

Can my blades be sharpened if they are rusted?

It depends on where and severe the rust is. Part of sharpening service is also to check for rust and to buff the surface rust off the blade.

Once blades have been recovered its time they are looked after a little better just by cleaning them.

Why does my dog have clipper rash?

If dull clipper blades are used or your clipping technique is harsh this can occur. It is commonly called “Clipper Rash” as the skin takes on a red and inflamed appearance much like a rash. Clipper blades should always be checked before use for teeth that are chipped or missing and blades that are rusty or blunt. These blade faults will pull on the skin and cause the rash to occur and so blades should not be used until repaired and sharpened. Using excessive pressure with the clipper can also cause clipper rash.

Can I buy spare parts for my Oster A5 blades?

Yes you can, the common parts are:

![Part number 42556 Oster Socket](image)

![Part Number 42571 Oster Blade Guide](image)

![Part Number 42555 Oster Blade Screw](image)

![Part Number 45501 Oster Tension Spring](image)
Clipper Operation, Maintenance and Blade Care

Changing Blades

To remove: IMPORTANT – stop motor, push latch with thumb while lifting blade away from the clipper and slide off tongue.

To replace: turn motor on, insert blade on tongue fully and then snap blade into place.

Note: If hinge is flush against clipper, lift it up with a screw driver.

Blade Cleaning

A topic of conversation always heard at seminars is “why do my clipper blades get dull so quickly? What can I do to get a longer wear between sharpening? To maintain the instrument quality of Oster Clippers and Blades, please follow the instructions below.

Let’s talk about new blades. Blades are costly, and to get long life and usage, you must follow certain steps. New blades must be attached to the clipper and operated in Oster blade wash to remove the rust protective coating. This coating must be removed from the cutting surfaces or they will not clip through the coat.

Position the clipper and blade in a flat dish as show in Figure 1. Fill the dish with just enough blade wash to cover the blade. Turn on the clipper. As the blade begins to run in this solution, you will hear a change in the hum of the running blade. It begins at a low pitch, and as the coating is removed, the blade runs faster and the hum rises to a higher pitch. When there is no further change in the hum of the running blade, you are ready to proceed to the next step.
Turn switch off and unplug. Remove the blade from the clipper and wipe the blade as dry as possible as shown in Figure 2. Use a lint-free cloth. It is important not to leave Blade Wash on the cutting surfaces. If you do so, hair will accumulate in the blade quicker and may cause the blade to run slower because of the build-up of hair between the cutting surfaces.

Next, carefully slide the cutting surfaces apart far enough to oil the running rails as shown in Figures 3, 4 & 5. Place a drop of oil on each running rail as indicated in these photos. More is not better. Do not drip oil indiscriminately onto the teeth of the blade. This may cause tiny pieces of hair to stick between the teeth making the blades jam or pick at the coat.

Slide the cutting surfaces together, attach the blade on the clipper, turn on the clipper and as it is running, spray Oster Kool-Lube 3 lubricant through the blade teeth. When you are working on a dirty, matted coat such as would be the case when you are stripping a dog, it would be wise to stop periodically and run your clipper blade through the steps shown in Figures 1 through 5 to prevent excessive wear to the blades.
At the end of each grooming day, or if your blades begin to pick during the course of a grooming, prepare your blades again. Use a small, stiff brush to remove loose hair or any accumulated matter from between the teeth as shown in Figures 6 & 7. (Vegetables brushes and old toothbrushes work fine). Hold the blade up to light and examine the spaces between the teeth. All hairs must be removed or the blade will continue to jam. (When examining blades from groomers who complain that their blades are dull and do not work, we frequently find matter and hair between the teeth of the blade). Re-lubricate with oil as shown in Figures 3, 4, & 5. Spray with Kool Lube lubricant, wipe blade surfaces that touch the coat and try the blade. You may find you have saved yourself the cost of unnecessary sharpening.
Cleaning your blades in this manner may also save your temper and your sanity when working with Bedlington Terriers and other extremely soft coats.

If you clip a dog that has questionable skin condition, or after removing filthy coat during pre-work, coat from around the anus, vaginal area, or penis, always spray your blade with Oster Spray Disinfectant before using the blade for any other purpose.

The Oster lubricants shown in Figure 8 are formulated to be used together to protect, lubricate and disinfect your blades.

![Lubricants](image)

Fig 8 – For best results use these product to maintain long life for your blades.

Have you got a question for us? Email us info@botanybayimports.com.au and we will be happy to reply to you.
IMPORTANT Replacement of worn lever.

Got some sharpened blades back? Find that your blades aren’t cutting as well as new? Then your lever might be worn – as this is the case most of the time.

The lever is a very important main part of the clipper – this drives the blade to move left to right.

If the lever is worn, you will not get sufficient throw of the top cutter.

If you lever is worn, it will pinch the fur. If it is fully worn – your blade will not cut.

How do I know if my lever needs to be changed other than looking at it? Get hold of the lever and try to move it left to right – if you have moment then it’s time to replace your lever.
**Blade Removal F.A.Q’s**

**How do I remove a blade from the clipper?**

On the back of the clipper, just below the blade there is black latch, you need to push the blade upwards towards the blade. While holding the latch in, pull the top of the blade away from the clipper.

![Blade in open position](image)

This is how your blade looks in open position.

Now that you have taken the blade off, the lever position has moved, then best way to fix this is when putting your blade back in position (hinge) turn your clipper on then click the blade on clipper, this will snap the blade into place.

**I accidentally closed the hinge assembly, how do I fix this?**

This is what the hinge assembly looks like when it is open.

![Hinge in open position](image)
When the Hinge is closed this is what it looks like.

To fix this

Get a flat screw driver and place it under the hinge and lift it gently back up into position.
Care and Maintenance Tips

Before carrying out any work on your clipper, please make sure you disconnect the unit from power supply.

How do I change the brushes? – Also see pictures next page.

Brushes need to be inspected on a regular basis, and replaced to insure maximum motor performance and life expectancy. Remove the brush cap by unscrewing it, remove both plastic cap and brass cap – take out the carbon brush and spring assembly. Check the length of the carbon, comparing both the rounded square sections of the brush. When the square section has been reduced to the length of the round section replacement is necessary to prevent possible damage to the armature.

Carbon brushes must be replaced as a set – not individually. Use only Oster genuine carbon brushes.

When reinstating the brush, make sure that the sharp pointed corners of the brush are aligned with the triangular notches in the brass cap and then the nylon cap over the brush spring and pressing down to seat the brass cap into the brush tube. Replace the outer housing cap and screw down tightly to prevent loosening.
1. Unscrew the cap.

2. Remove plastic cap

3. Remove brass cap
4. Carbon brush

5. Replace carbon brush and brass cap

6. Re-screw housing cap.
Cleaning the Clipper

Cleaning the blades and inside the clipper head should be carried out after every clipping session to avoid a build of dirt and hair. Get an old toothbrush and clean out the hair in the red section.

We have a full listing of our spare parts on our website www.botanybayimports.com.au