

CERAMIC BLADES

When these blades come from the factory they are perfect. As they are used, the sides of the teeth of the ceramic cutter will get imperfections along the cutting edges. These imperfections tend to create a “saw tooth” on the sides of the ceramic teeth and this causes dragging, snagging, or dullness. If something like a tiny piece of sand gets in the teeth of the ceramic cutter this could cause “fragmentation” to the sides of the cutter teeth. This is harder fix. Also, if the ceramic cutter is damaged too much it may never cut properly again and may need replaced. The best advice is to use ceramic blades on clean dogs, never rough in animals using them. It only takes one grain of sand to cause problems so the blade won't cut right anymore. There are several applications groomers use to help this situation, check out the grooming BBS's for this information.

As sharpeners, we have to take enough ceramic material off the bottom of the cutter and get past these imperfections and fragmentations to get the cutter to slice the hair again rather than ripping it. This is done by hand on a diamond surface, and most sharpeners charge a little extra for sharpening ceramic blades for this reason. Replacing the cutter each time is not necessary, this is evidence the sharpener cannot sharpen ceramics. Cutters should only be replaced if they are damaged beyond re-sharpening.

Ceramic material actually is used to sharpen metals, and the ceramic cutter on your blades is no different. As it passes back and forth across the lower blade (metal), it “seats” itself to that metal blade and gets rid of any imperfections. Tension is also very important, ceramic material is just like glass so the tension must be between 2 ½ to 3# side pressure. Any tighter and the ceramic cutter could shatter just by dropping the blade on your grooming table.

Here is a suggestion to try when you get your freshly sharpened ceramic blades back from sharpening. Instead of taking them right out of the package and running them through fur, let them run by themselves on the clipper for a minute or two. As the ceramic cutter moves back and forth across the metal comb I believe it gets rid of the imperfections of sharpening the cutter, and will “seat” itself to the metal blade below it. Blades seem to cut perfectly when this small break-in period is done.