



„Normally we needed six hours to clean a 500-metre section of a sound-barrier wall. Now we can complete 600 meters in one hour.”

City of Yokohama Road Works employee

When the going gets tough, the Unimog gets going. Take the city of Yokohama in Japan, for instance. The Road Works Department faced the challenge of quickly cleaning four-metre curved

transparent sound barriers. They turned to the Unimog U400 to solve their problem. It is equipped with a flexible rotating brush that fits perfectly into the curved shape of the barrier wall.



Mercedes-Benz



Mercedes-Benz

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The customer.

► 77 million cars drive on the roads every day in Japan. With the help of the Unimog, the state road authorities keep 240 kilometers of roadway in optimal shape for the city of Yokohama.

► Yokohama relied for many years on the Unimog U 1450, particularly for snow removal in mountainous areas. Then the Road Works Department shifted up a gear and added Unimog-compatible implements such as a tunnel washer and implement for gathering up cans from the roadway.

► In early 2002, the U 1450 retired gracefully after many years of excellent service. And the Unimog U 400 professional implement carrier was already on standby.

The challenge

► Busy roads in and around Yokohama's residential areas are surrounded by sound-barrier walls. The curved, transparent walls made from polycarbonate insulate against sound without blocking out the light. Good news for residents and drivers in Yokohama ... but a serious challenge for the teams responsible for keeping the streets of Yokohama clean.

The solution.

► To tackle the job, the U 400 was fitted with a cleaning implement specially designed for curved transparent walls. The device consists of a curved, rotating brush (75 cm diameter) that can reach and scour the dirt from every area of the wall.

Pulling out all the stops - the Unimog U 400 with curved, rotating brush.



► The brush is attached to the rear of the U 400 and can be rotated 90 degrees towards the edge of the road so that it is positioned at the side of the vehicle. Depending on the curvature of the wall, the brush can be flexed in a two to four metre radius.

"There is no implement carrier in Japan that compares with the Mercedes-Benz Unimog when it comes to versatility."

Yanase, Unimog representative, Yokohama

The result.

► The Unimog U 400 has been hard at work nearly every day in Yokohama for the past two years. Hands-on experience has been resoundingly positive.

High tech for the far east - a clear view of Japan's roads.



► The spokesperson of a private street cleaning service that acts as a sub-contractor to the Yokohama Road Works Department comments: "Normally we needed six hours to clean a 500-metre section of a sound-barrier wall. Now we can complete 600 metres in one hour."

► One of the more experienced employees in the Roads Works Department cites additional benefits from the U 400, particularly when operating it alone. "Some service vehicles are basically just trucks. The Unimog is far more. This is especially true with our U 400 with respect to VarioPilot® - transferable steering. We drive on the left-hand side of the road in Japan. And with the U 400, we always have a clear view of the road edge. Transferable steering ensures optimal field of vision and safe operation. In addition, air

conditioning, which is standard equipment, means we have a comfortable working environment all year round. The U 400 makes my work a lot easier.

► The implement specialist also sounded a positive note: "The costs for a Unimog chassis are certainly not comparable to those of a single-purpose vehicle. But due to the front PTO and hydraulic system, the U 400 is extremely versatile and can power a variety of implements.

Unimog benefits at a glance:

- VarioPilot® transferable steering.
- Three attachment areas for maximum flexibility
- Front PTO and hydraulic system

► Discover more Unimog success stories by visiting our web site at www.mercedesbenz.com/unimog.