

Efficient guardrail cleaner

TO ELIMINATE much of the hand work of cleaning guardrails, the Iowa DOT maintenance crew in Dyersville built a guardrail cleaner and attached it to a skid loader. The cleaner is able to reach under a guardrail and push or pull material out of the way.

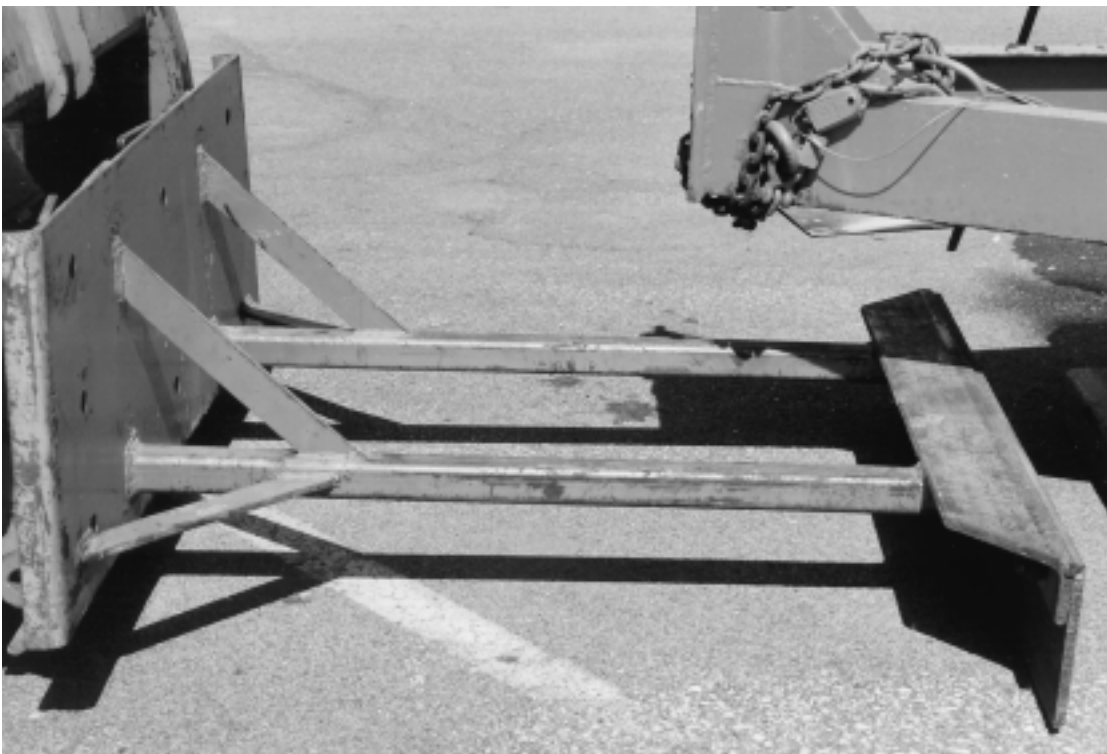
The guardrail cleaner is 44 inches long by 42 inches wide. It attaches to a skid loader with quick-tach plate:

- 5 feet of 3/8" x 2" flat steel
- 8 feet of 2" x 2" square tubing
- 4 feet of 3" x 5" x 1/2" angle

Including paint, the materials cost was approximately \$125.

Using the cleaner cuts labor time to clean a section of guardrail by approximately 60 percent. Savings for using a skid loader rather than a backhoe is approximately \$11 per hour.

For more information about the guardrail cleaner, contact Steve Benda, 563-875-7615. •



Top: The guardrail cleaner fits easily on a skid loader.

Bottom: The cleaner can reach under guardrails to remove debris.

Editor's note: The "guardrail cleaner" is one of several winning innovations from the "Better Mousetrap" competition at the Iowa Maintenance Training Expo in 2002. In each issue of *Technology News* we're highlighting one of the winners. For information about other winning "mousetraps," see CTRE's website: www.ctre.iastate.edu/ (see "Popular Links").