

RUSTY LUCAS
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April 15, 2005

MTD Products, Inc.
5903 Grafton Road
Valley City, OH 44280
ATTN: Troy-Bilt Snow Blower Co.

Dear Snow Blowers:

I wonder if I can ask you what might seem like a strange question. Do you make sand blowers? I live right on Lake Erie in Ohio and snow has never really been as much of a problem for me as sand. Of course I do get snow there in the wintertime, but I am one of those summertime Ohioans and I often go down south during the colder months to get away from the frigid and wet winters.

I am rarely around when the snow starts flying, so I really don't have much use for a snow blower, but I have got to find something that will help me get rid of all this sand! And snow blowers don't work very well in that capacity as I will explain below.

My house sits right on the edge of a sandy beach on Lake Erie. When the surf comes in, it always brings so much fine grainy sand along with it. Then the wind picks up the sand and blows it around creating large sand drifts on my sidewalk, driveway, and patio deck. I call them sand drifts because I don't think they can technically be called sand dunes unless they are actually in the desert. It's one of those scientific naming things -- just like we never get tsunamis on the Atlantic Coast and they never get hurricanes in Asia. But these really would call the imagery of sand dunes to mind if you saw them.

So after a few days of surf and wind, I end up with sand everywhere. My neighbor's cats use these sand drifts as their personal litter box and then my dogs track it all into the house. It is just a tremendous mess to deal with. Sometimes the sand can drift up to a few feet deep over a long weekend and it really is a chore to clear out a simple path sometimes. It can be quite taxing if you know what I mean.

I tried to get a sand shovel (something like the equivalent of a snow shovel, except for sand) from a reputable snow shovel manufacturer. I won't name the manufacturer here, but let's just say that they didn't actually make the snow shovel, they just made it better. But all they had in the line of sand shovels was a dinky little plastic shovel that was paired with a flimsy colored plastic pail. I am not looking to make a sand castle my friends, I am talking about some serious sand

removal and I needed a real sand shovel.

I have tried all the snow shovels I have seen, but they simply did not work well with sand. I started thinking that maybe it wasn't the design of the shovels that was the problem. All shovels are pretty much the same when you get right down to it. What I really need more than a shovel (or in addition to a shovel) is a sand broom to get all the fine particles up out of the cracks and seams. But I really don't have the time to first shovel my sidewalk and driveway and patio and then go back over it all again in detail with a broom. Plus, that is pretty laborious to move all of that sand by hand only to have to do it again in a matter of days.

That was when it hit me. I don't need a shovel or a broom. I need a sand blower -- something that will eat up a chunk of sand and blow it out of the way and then brush up the remaining grains at the same time. When I got back from Florida last week, I checked the local hardware stores and even a home and garden store, but all they had were various models of snow blowers and not single sand blower among them. So I invested in a snow blower to see if it would work. I am afraid that I destroyed the mechanism inside the snow blower with a bad patch of sand. Or maybe it was the cat poop. I don't know...

Please tell me that you have a sand blower that I can purchase and let me know where I might buy it. Once I have a Troy-Bilt sand blower to handle all this sand, my new personal motto will be "Bring All Sand Forth!" and I will tackle even the toughest sand drift like it was an anthill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rusty Lucas".

Rusty Lucas

p.s. Do you have any Troy-Bilt baseball caps? I have to confess that I am beginning to show signs of male pattern baldness on my head and the sun can get pretty brutal on the lake in the summer as I am sure you know. I wouldn't want to spend all that time cleaning up my sand drifts and end up with a painful scalp sunburn. If you could send me a free Troy-Bilt baseball cap to protect my head during those times I would be most grateful.