

Breathe Easy



The 2022 Ford Bronco® Everglades™ is the first Ford vehicle equipped with a factory-installed engine intake snorkel system. The snorkel optimizes air-induction performance in dusty conditions or when driving through heavy snow or rain. Coupled with the vehicle's raised vents for the front and rear axles, transfer case and transmission, the snorkel helps extend water fording capability up to 36.4 inches.

The snorkel, created by Ford, uses two reversible plates to direct air intake forward or rearward. The easy-to-swap intake plates are positioned at the top of the snorkel, which is mounted to the vehicle's passenger-side A-pillar.

"We looked at snorkels out there and knew we had to do better," said Joe Denatale, senior exterior designer. "What really sets this

snorkel apart is the head and reversible intake. We completely changed the way a snorkel can look and function."



Bringing the Bronco Everglades Snorkel to Life

After a decade-long design career put him in positions to sketch everything from semi-tractor trailers to 4x4s, Joe Denatale finally found his calling in 2017. The Pittsfield, Maine native landed at Ford as a senior exterior designer, and he immediately landed his dream assignment – working on the new Ford Bronco.

"It felt like the stars had aligned," said Denatale who arrived in Dearborn, Michigan, behind the wheel of his 1995 Bronco. "I'd been designing different kinds of vehicles since 2007, but all along I was always trying to get back to Michigan. Then to find out I'd be working on Bronco – it was like a childhood dream come true."

More specifically, Denatale was tabbed to work on the new 2022 Bronco Everglades, an adventure



vehicle geared toward hardcore enthusiasts. When the team set out to identify the various vehicle features that the adventure crowd wants, one feature stood out: a snorkel system, which Ford had never offered as a factory-installed accessory.

With Denatale, 38, playing a lead role, the team set out to design various versions of the all-new snorkel, landing on a design that has the snorkel running up the passenger-side A-pillar

and, perhaps more importantly, featuring a head design that relies on two reversible air intake plates. The plates can be easily switched to let drivers position the air intake forward or rearward, depending on conditions.

"I figured the routing out pretty early to get around the mirror, but the most interesting part was the head design," said Denatale, a 2007 graduate of College for Creative Studies in Detroit. "Traditionally, a lot of snorkels are very agricultural, almost militaristic, and they swivel or rotate, but (Bronco design chief Paul Wraith) asked if there was a different way we could do it, something less complex that looks nicer."

"What we came up with is very tailored – it's designed specifically for Bronco Everglades. The snorkel needed to look functional, but it had to feel like it fits on this vehicle. It's a blend of design and engineering; there's a really delicate marriage between the two."