



Be aware and take care.

SNOW BLOWER SAFETY

Canadian winters are a time when you will see a lot of snow.



Removing snow and ice from around your home is an essential winter safety activity. Snow blowers are useful machines that can make the task of clearing the snow a lot easier, but they are also potentially dangerous. Here are a few tips to help keep you safe while operating your snow blower this winter.

The NB Trauma Program, and our provincial stakeholders, would like to remind you that most injuries can be prevented!

We encourage everyone to learn more about how to stay safe during winter months.

For more information on winter safety and other injury prevention topics, for people of all ages, please visit www.NBTrauma.ca.



Horizon Health Network Réseau de santé Horizon | Vitalité Health Network Réseau de santé Vitalité | Ambulancas NB | New Brunswick Department of Health Ministère de la santé du Nouveau-Brunswick

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Read and understand the owner's manual.

Before you begin using your snow blower, it is important that you know how to properly maintain it in safe operating condition. Make sure you also understand the functions of all controls and how to operate them. Failure to follow all safety practices in the manual could result in injury.

Choose appropriate winter clothing.

Light weight, well insulated and waterproof boots with a thick, non-slip tread sole can improve your footing on slippery surfaces. In order to help you stay visible when clearing the snow, wear brightly colored and/or reflective clothing. Avoid wearing any loose clothing such as scarves, jackets or baggy pants that may get tangled in your snow blower's rotating parts.



Add fuel before starting the snow blower.

Never add fuel or oil to your snow blower when the engine is running or when it is still hot. Do not run any gasoline-powered equipment indoors to avoid dangerous carbon monoxide exposure.

Unlog your snow blower safely

Before you attempt to clear a clogged chute, turn off the machine, remove the key and wait for all moving parts to stop. Remember to use the clearing tool that is provided by the manufacturer or an alternative such as a small shovel, a broom handle, or stick instead.

Did you know?

Research shows that the most common injury associated with snow blowers comes from people trying to unlog the machine with their bare hands. In addition, rotational force can build up just enough inside the clogged snow to allow the snow blower's moving parts to rotate a quarter to a half a turn even when the engine is cut completely off.



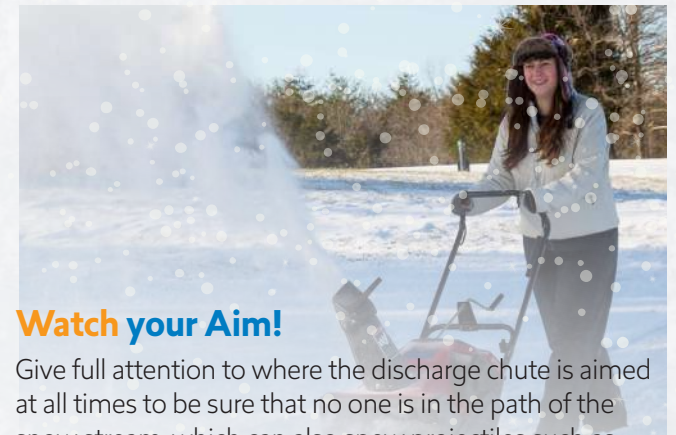
Remember

Never use your hands or feet to clear the snow from your snow blower's auger, discharge chute or any other moving parts



Pay attention to your surroundings

Appropriate lighting and visibility are important when operating your snow blower. Always be aware of traffic and pedestrians when operating along streets, curbs, or sidewalks. Keep children and pets away from the area that is being cleared and exercise caution when operating on slopes to avoid tipping the snow blower.



Watch your Aim!

Give full attention to where the discharge chute is aimed at all times to be sure that no one is in the path of the snow stream, which can also spew projectiles such as rocks and sticks at dangerous speeds. To help avoid this, pick up any unwanted objects and debris from the area you will clear with your snow blower before and after each snowfall.



Stay alert!

Safe snow blower operation requires your complete and unimpaired attention at all times. Do not operate the machine during or after the use of alcohol, drugs and certain medications.