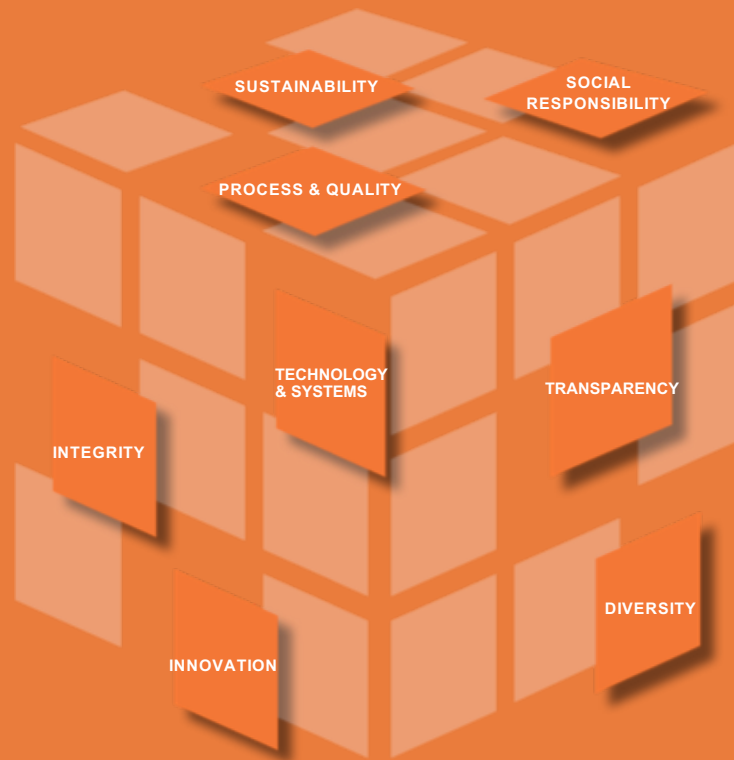


Snow Blower Safety





This module covers the topic of Snow Blower Safety and ways to prevent injury.

There is also a short Final Quiz, in addition to this module, which will be scored. It is necessary to pass with a score of 80% or better to receive credit for this module.

This module takes 15 minutes to complete.

During the winter months snow blowers can be very useful, but they can also be dangerous.

There have been multiple injuries associated with snow blowers, most often involving the hand or fingers, including amputations.



There single are two basic types of snow blower:

- ▶ **Single stage blower:**
Whirls the auger at a very high speed to cut and throw the snow.
- ▶ **Two stage blower:**
Uses an additional auger for throwing snow out of the path and are usually more enclosed



Before Operation

- ▶ Ensure that you wear the appropriate Personnel Protective Equipment (PPE) (Example: gloves, protective goggles, non-skid boots, etc.)
- ▶ Inspect the snowy area in which you plan to clear.
- ▶ Remove debris and other obstacles the blower might strike or throw, as they may cause injury or damage to the blower.
- ▶ If you hit an obstacle while operating the blower, stop the engine immediately, and check for damage.
- ▶ Damaged equipment could contribute to the potential of injury during operation. Inspect the blower before every use.
- ▶ Repair damage and correct any machine issue before operating, following the operators manual instructions at all times

During Operation

- ▶ Know how to stop the snow blower, release the auger and drive clutch levers to stop
- ▶ Do not permit anyone to operate the snow blower without proper training
- ▶ Keep people away from the area of operation to avoid injury from flying debris
- ▶ Never use the snow blower to clear snow from a gravel road or driveway, rocks would be picked up and cast out
- ▶ Stay clear of the snow discharge chute while the engine is running
- ▶ Adjust the discharge chute to avoid hitting the operator, bystanders, windows, and others with ejected snow.

- ▶ Do not use the snow blower when visibility is poor.
- ▶ To avoid overturning, be careful when changing the direction of the snow blower while operating it on a slope.
- ▶ Refuel in a well-ventilated area ensuring the engine has stopped.
- ▶ Do not use a snow blower on a roof.
- ▶ Do not overfill the fuel tank.
- ▶ Be careful not to touch the muffler while it is hot.
- ▶ Allow the engine to cool before storing the snow blower inside.
- ▶ While operating the snow blower, hold on to the handle firmly and walk, DO NOT run.
- ▶ Always keep guards and shields in place on the blower.



Snow blowers can save a great deal of time when used properly and safely.

- ▶ Protect yourself from carbon-monoxide poisoning by starting and running gasoline-powered snow blowers outside, rather than in your garage, shed or warehouse.
- ▶ Don't wear loose pants, jackets, scarves or other clothing which can get tangled in a snow blower's moving parts.
- ▶ Exposed gears, drive chains, and belts can also cause injuries
- ▶ Wear hearing protection, especially when operating gas-powered models.
- ▶ Wait until a gas model's engine is cool before refueling. Never refuel while a snow blower is running.
- ▶ For electric models, use an outdoor extension cord and an outlet with ground-fault circuit interrupter protection. Then be sure to keep the cord safely away from the spinning auger while working.

Summation activities:

- ▶ **Drink water:** Dehydration is an important issue in the winter as well as the summer. Drink a couple glasses of water about thirty minutes before you begin. Stay hydrated throughout all work periods.
- ▶ **Assistance:** To avoid back injury, get help if you must lift the blower to and from its storage place.
- ▶ **Warm up:** Stretch the muscles in your back, legs, shoulders and arms prior to starting. Warm muscles work more efficiently and are less prone to injury.
- ▶ **Dress in layers:** Putting on a heavy coat is often done prior to starting this task. This is potentially dangerous because you may quickly overheat. Wear layers and strip off layers as you warm up.

Other precautions to consider during snow removal activities: *(continued)*

- ▶ **Cover your face and hands in extreme cold:** Frostbite can occur easily in subzero temperatures, particularly to the extremities. Ensure that your fingertips are fully covered with gloves, wear layered socks under your boots and cover your nose and ears. Use sunscreen due to increased reflective exposure from the snow.
- ▶ **Take frequent breaks:** Take a break every five or ten minutes while you're working. Never let your heart rate exceed 85 percent of its maximum. To estimate your maximum heart rate, subtract your age from 220. Pace yourself.
- ▶ **Slip protection:** Carry and use anti-slip and supportive shoes or attachments that fit the base of your shoes to prevent slips.

When purchasing a snow blower look for these built-in safety features:

- ▶ Many snow blower models include a clearing tool for clogs. The tool is stored within easy reach on the machine, making it convenient for safe clearing.
- ▶ Manufacturers have addressed injury prevention to the hands with a handlebar dead-man control that stops the snow blower when released.

Congratulations, you have completed the
Snow Blower Safety module.
Click [here](#) to take the final quiz.

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