

# Snow Blower Safety



1. Employees will be properly and thoroughly trained before attempting to do any work with the snow blower.
2. Before operating the snow blower, inspect the area in which you are going to clear snow.
  - a. Remove debris and other obstacles the snow blower might strike or throw, as that may cause injury or damage to the snow blower.
3. Inspect the snow blower before operating it.
  - a. Repair any damage and correct any malfunction before operation.
  - b. If you hit an obstacle while operating the snow blower, stop the engine immediately, and check for damage.
  - c. Damaged equipment may increase the possibility of injury during operation.
4. Do not use the snow blower when visibility is poor.
  - a. Under conditions of poor visibility, there is a greater risk of striking an obstacle or causing injury.
5. Never use the snow blower to clear snow from a gravel road or driveway, as rocks may be picked up and ejected. They may cause injury to bystanders.
6. Adjust the discharge chute to avoid hitting the operator, bystanders, windows, and other objects with ejected snow.
  - a. Stay clear of the snow discharge chute while the engine is running.
7. Children and pets must be kept away from the area of operation to avoid injury from flying debris and contact with the snow blower.
8. To avoid overturning, be careful when changing the direction of the snow blower while operating it on a slope.
  - a. Do not use the snow blower to remove snow from roofs.
  - b. The snow blower may overturn on steep slopes if left unattended, causing injury to the operator or bystanders.
9. Know how to stop the snow blower quickly, and understand the operations of all controls.
10. Never permit anyone to operate the snow blower without proper instruction.
  - a. If people or pets suddenly appear in front of the snow blower while it is in operation, immediately release the auger and drive clutch levers to stop the snow blower and avoid possible injury from rotating auger blades.
11. If the snow discharge chute becomes clogged, stop the engine and use a wooden stock to unclog it.
12. Never put your hand into the snow discharge chute while the engine is running; serious personal injury could result.
13. Refuel in a well-ventilated area with the engine stopped.
  - a. Do not overfill the fuel tank, and make sure the filler cap is closed securely after refueling.
14. Never run the engine in an enclosed or confined area.
  - a. Exhaust contains poisonous carbon monoxide gas; exposure can cause loss of consciousness and may lead to death.
15. The muffler becomes very hot during operation and remains hot for a while after stopping the engine.

16. Be careful not to touch the muffler while it is hot.
  - a. Let the engine cool before storing the snow blower indoors.
17. While operating the snow blower, hold the handle firmly, and walk, don't run. Wear suitable winter boots that resist slipping.
18. Always keep equipment in good operating condition.
19. Always keep guards and shields in place.
20. Always wear eye, face, and hearing protection.
21. Never clear snow across the face of a slope.
  - a. Always turn toward the down side, when turning on a sloped area.
22. Always keep hands, feet, and clothing away from the snow blower and discharge chute when the auger is turning.
23. Wear appropriate clothing and footwear