

Snow Blower

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Snow Blower Safety

Many injuries occur each winter that involve fingers when individuals attempt to clear the auger/collector or discharge chute of a snow blower with their hands. Strains and sprains or slip/fall related injuries also occur while maneuvering the snow blower. Most of the injuries resulting from snow blower operations are preventable. To ensure your safety, please follow these safety guidelines:

- Read and understand the manufacturer's operating instructions and/or have an experienced, knowledgeable person demonstrate procedures for safe operation.
- Before starting, inspect the blower to make sure shields are in place and not damaged. Tighten any loose nuts, bolts, or screws. Before servicing, disconnect the spark plug wire.
- Add fuel before starting the engine. Never fuel an engine that is running or hot.
- Store fuel in approved safety cans only.
- Dress properly for the conditions. Do not wear loose fitting clothing while operating machinery. Footwear should have adequate traction or "ice cleats".
- Inspect the area before you begin. Remove branches, hoses, toys, and other objects.
- Pre-plan the placement of discharged snow. Do not direct the discharge chute towards windows, parked cars, roadways, or travel paths. Remember that objects other than snow will usually be thrown further than the snow discharge.
- When operating for extended periods of time, plug or muff type hearing protection should be used.
- Do not leave a snow blower unattended when it is running. Shut off the snow blower and remove the key.
- If the chute or auger backs up (clogs) follow these steps:
 - Turn off the machine.
 - Remove the spark plug wire.
 - Use a stick or broom handle to free the snow or debris.
 - Never, ever, reach into or place your hands in the auger housing or chute.