



Safety Tips for Snowblower Operators

Using a snowblower can be far easier than shoveling, but it also presents serious safety risks. Snowblower-related injuries can include lacerations, amputations, fractures, and muscle strain. Many injuries occur when operators attempt to clear clogged snow from the chute while the machine is running.

Improper use, combined with overexertion, can also strain shoulders, wrists, and backs. Taking a few precautions can significantly reduce the risk of injury.

Safe Snowblower Operation Tips

- Dress appropriately, including slip-resistant footwear.
- Read and follow the manufacturer's safety manual.
- Add fuel before starting the machine, not while it is hot.
- Make sure all guards and shields are in place. Use only approved attachments.
- Inspect the area before starting and remove objects that could be thrown by the machine.
- Mark the locations of water and gas shut-off valves before clearing snow.
- Adjust the collector housing so it does not strike gravel or rock surfaces.
- Keep bystanders clear of the work area.
- Keep hands and feet away from all moving parts.
- Be aware of carbon monoxide hazards. Never operate the machine in enclosed areas.
- Always know where the power cord is when using an electric snowblower.
- Direct snow away from buildings, vehicles, and pedestrians.
- Avoid clearing snow on steep slopes.
- Never leave a running snowblower unattended.
- Pace yourself to avoid overexertion.
- Turn the machine off before making adjustments or repairs and wait for all moving parts to stop.
- Use a stick or broom to clear clogged snow. Never use your hands.