



Weekly Safety Tip

How to Use a Snow Blower



How to Use a Snow Blower



Choose one of two paths to snow-clearing

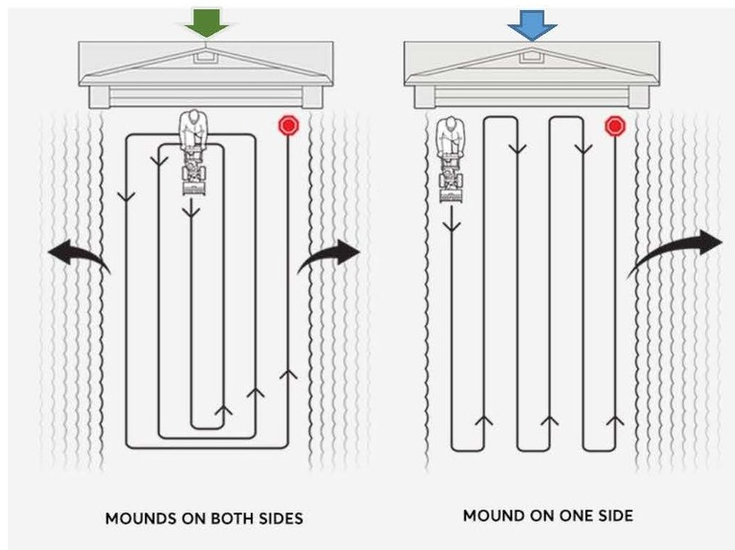
Attribution: Consumers Reports



A snow blower is capable of throwing snow up to 50 feet, depending upon the model, but you need to know how to handle it correctly. Using a snow blower the wrong way can be infuriating and dangerous: You can easily heap snow onto a path you've already cleared, or fling a rock or other debris through a window or toward a bystander.

Prep Your Driveway: Take a minute to scan your driveway for branches, newspapers, and other detritus that could clog and damage the machine. Make sure kids and pets are safely indoors: Snow blowers can hurl debris such as small stones—at high speeds—30 feet or farther. Plan on making several passes rather than one sweep. Single-stage snow blowers typically max out at a depth of 6 to 9 inches, and even the strongest machines will struggle when snow is more than 16 inches deep.

Pick a Spot to Throw the Snow: If you want to deposit the snow on both sides of the driveway (see illustration below, at left), start by cutting a single swath down the center, then work your way out toward the edges. If you want all the snow to end up along one edge of the driveway, as in the illustration below, start on the opposite edge and work your way toward the side where you want snow to land. That way, you'll clear any snow that falls short of its intended resting place as you work your way across. Each time you turn around at one end of the driveway, adjust the discharge chute 180 degrees to keep the snow flying in the right direction.



Removing the Plow Pile: Now, what about the huge drift the town plow left at the end of the drive? Tackle that mess right away, before it melts, refreezes, and becomes a rock-hard glacier. Turn your snow blower to the slowest possible speed and work very slowly. As you approach the pile, lift up on the handles, forcing the nose of your machine down into the snow, so the auger can dig into the mass rather than just skimming over the top. Clear a couple of feet by blowing it into your yard, move over, and repeat until you have an open path. Repeat each time the plow returns, blocking you in yet again.

Weekly Safety Share



Top 10 OSHA Violations 2024

Fall Protection: General Requirements accounted for 25% of all citations in the Top Ten list.

Top 10 OSHA Violations 2024

Fall protection has been #1 for **14 consecutive years** ✨

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1

Fall Protection:
General Requirements
6,307 Violations | 6

Powered Industrial Trucks
2,248 Violations |
| 2

Hazard Communication
2,888 Violations | 7

Fall Protection: Training
2,050 Violations |
| 3

Ladders
2,573 Violations | 8

Scaffolding
1,873 Violations |
| 4

Respiratory Protection
2,470 Violations | 9

PPE: Eye and Face Protection
1,814 Violations |
| 5

Lockout/Tagout
2,443 Violations | 10

Machine Guarding
1,541 Violations |



✨ *Ladders, scaffolding, and fall protection training requirements are also on the list, which means that 4 out of the top 10 OSHA violations are related to fall protection!*

However, compared to 2023, violations decreased in nearly every category.

David A. Varwig, CSP-retired and Board Member of the Safety Council of Northwest Ohio





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