Snowblowing Tips & Tricks!

Before any snowstorm you should always have a snow removal plan. The following are some simple tips on how to care for your driveway during the winter season as well as take care of your snow blower!

Prepare the snow blower.

- Fuel
- Oil (applies 4 cycle engines)
- Tuck in loose articles of clothing, wear gloves, earplugs, safety glasses, and proper footwear
- If snow blowing near traffic, keep an eye out and wear bright clothing to be seen by drivers

Know how to use your snow blower correctly. Only clear ice and snow (slush can cause it to clog).

- Avoid obstructions: hoses, taps, water features, statues, toys, branches, cords, etc.
- Have adequate light to work by
- Keep your arms extended a good distance from your body in case the machine stops abruptly

Don’t fight the wind. Point the chute downwind to help you blow the snow. Direction may change often during a session.

Plan where the snow will be piled up. Accumulation could be very high presenting safety and security issues.

- When piling at the end of the driveway, take into account street traffic visibility
- Pile snow on the left side of your driveway (if you can) this reduces snow being pushed into your driveway by plows
- Piling snow against your home's foundation may lead to flooding problems when it melts
- Take weight of the pile into consideration if piling on structures or plantings
- Do not blow snow at buildings or vehicles, rocks and other debris may be thrown

- Keep children in mind - be sure there are no potential traps for children to fall into, and they can be seen walking on sidewalks

Decide on a pattern. Best patterns depend on wind speed and direction, how powerful your machine is (how far it can throw the snow), and the moisture content of the snow.

- First cut a path down the center of the driveway and work out in a circle pattern
- Always get the snow off the area to be cleared and onto its final resting area with each pass

Keep up with the snowfall. It is easier and faster to clear 6 inches of snow twice than 12 inches of snow once!

Leave the shoveling for after. It's easier to use the machine to remove 95% of the snowfall as efficiently as possible. Slowing the machine's operation to avoid blowing snow on a previously shoveled area is very counter-productive.

Run the blower for a few minutes when finished. This removes snow build-up, and helps dry it out before returning it to storage.

Resources: WikiHow & Yardcare

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