

EQUIPMENT PRE-STORM CHECK

Make safety part of every snow event. Heavy equipment is one of your company's most expensive fleet expenditures. Take care of your fleet by performing a pre-storm check when you arrive on site to begin service. This checklist is a complement to pre- and post-event inspection and specifically relates to tasks that should be completed before the operator begins storm operations. Doing so will help mitigate preventable equipment failures and makes the site safer for both the operator and any pedestrians or motorists who may be in the field of service.

STEP 2: Clear snow from rooftop, arms, radiator cover and all visible spaces

STEP 1: Check fluids and belts before starting the machine

STEP 3: Check the lights and turn signals (if applicable)

STEP 4: Slowly move the loader arms and bucket to get hydraulic fluid flowing

STEP 5: Check the tires for proper pressure and tighten all wheel lug nuts

STEP 6: Start on the next piece of equipment, even if it won't be used for the current storm



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STEP 1: Check fluids and belts

You will want to start the engine as soon as possible to let it warm up. Before starting, you must take this step since you cannot check fluids and belts safely with the engine running.

STEP 2: Clear snow

Wipe snow off the machine. Not only does it look more professional, it's important for safety. Make sure to clear the following:

- **Radiator Cover** – Air cannot pass through if it is snow covered.
- **Loader arms** – Built up snow on and underneath the loader arms will reduce visibility out the side windows.
- **Top of the cab/roof** – Fully expose the beacon light that would otherwise have snow all around it. Clearing the window on the roof will allow the operator to see above and allow light into the cab.
- **Attachments/Steps** – Clearing steps is essential to avoid slipping when getting in or out of the equipment.

STEP 3: Check the lights

All lights should be checked and replaced as quickly as possible and all lights should be kept on regardless of the time of day. There are several reasons for this:

- Equipment on the road is typically slower than vehicular traffic and you want motorists approaching from the rear to have as much notice as possible that you are in front of them.
- Snow removal equipment is often driven in reverse so rear-facing lights can alert motorists that you are backing up or are likely to back up without much notice.
- Turn signals (available on some equipment) can help notify motorists of your intent on roadways, but also when you are clearing shopping centers, condominiums and HOAs, and other areas with vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

STEP 4: Move the loader arms/bucket

The hydraulic fluid will slowly warm up as the machine is running except for the hydraulic lines for the loader's arms/bucket. When you slowly move the bucket and loader arms, it will push the warmer hydraulic fluid into those areas and return the cold hydraulic fluid back to the machine to warm up. If you do not follow this procedure, extremely hot hydraulic fluid will flow to the cold loader arms/bucket lines and can blow out the line.

STEP 5: Check the wheels and tires

- Know what the PSI should be. Consider writing the PSI with a paint pen on the sidewall of the tire or on the machine near the tires or near the fuel cap, etc. Tire pressure is critical on skid-steer loaders because they turn by skidding. If the pressure is low, the tire will immediately pop off when you turn sharply.
- If even one lug nut is loose or missing, it won't take long for the rest to follow. Tighten all of them before moving.

STEP 6: Start on the next piece

Once your machine is ready and warming up, help with other pieces of equipment that haven't been prepared. Even if a machine is not needed for a particular event, perform the check just in case:

- If another piece of equipment breaks down, the team will know the other equipment is ready to go and warmed up earlier that shift.
- A snow-covered piece of equipment can send the wrong message to clients and to thieves/vandals.