

# BEST PRACTICES PLOW: PRE-TRIP INSPECTION CHECKLIST

USE THIS CHECKLIST AS A VEHICLE INSPECTION GUIDE

## SPARE PARTS INVENTORY CHECKPOINTS:

Parts should be included in the truck/equipment.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plow pins             | <input type="checkbox"/> Fuses   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cotter (or hair) pins | <input type="checkbox"/> Spare Controller (hand held or permanent mount)                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dielectric grease     | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydraulic fluid   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plow Marker(s)        | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydraulic hoses   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chain                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Solenoid (if electric hydraulic system) or extra belt for direct hydraulic system |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bolts                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trip springs  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> U-Bolts for chain     |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cutting Edge Bolts    |  |

## PRE-TRIP VEHICLE CHECKPOINTS:

Examine each of these checkpoints for proper condition and operation.

### LIGHTS

- Check to ensure all lights work:
- Headlights
  - High beam
  - Low beam
- Tail lights
- Reverse lights (*with someone's assistance*)
- Brake lights
- 4-Way flashers
- Strobe lights
- Turn signals

### DASHBOARD

- Check to ensure all gauges are operational

### BATTERY

- Check battery
- Corrosion
- Secure connection
- Battery level (if checkable)

### FLUIDS

- Check to ensure all fluids are at acceptable levels
- Fuel
- Engine oil
- Brake fluid
- Transmission fluid
- Radiator fluid (*do not open radiator cap when truck is hot*)
- Windshield wiper fluid
- Power steering fluid
- Plow fluids (central hydraulics?)

### RADIATOR & HOSES

- Check radiator and hoses
- Leaks in hoses
- Hose clamps

### BELTS

- Check alternator belt/serpentine belt/any other belts
- Cracks
- Proper tension

### 4X4 ENGAGEMENT

- Check 4X4 engagement switch or manual engagement lever to ensure it is in proper working condition

### ELECTRONIC DISENGAGEMENT

- Check 4X4 disengagement switch or manual disengagement lever to ensure it is in proper working condition

### TIRE PRESSURE

- Check tire pressure with gauge
- Tire pressure between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ psi.

### WINDSHIELD WIPERS

- Check to ensure they are operating properly, and in good condition

### DEFROSTER / HEATER

- Check to ensure it is operating properly

### LICENSE PLATE

- Check license plate
- Visible, clear of snow

### HORN

- Check to ensure it is operating properly

### STRAIGHT-BLADE / V-PLOW ONLY

Weight distribution of front attachments, with materials in back of truck.

- Check to ensure proper weight distribution
- Counter-weight in rear of truck
- Counter-weight secure behind rear axle?
- Salt Spreader loaded correctly and not overloaded

*Checklist continues on other side.*

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## PRE-TRIP PLOW CHECKPOINTS:

Examine each of these checkpoints for proper condition and operation.

### MOLD BOARD

- Shoes (if using shoes)
- Examine shoes
  - Shoes are in proper position  
(up for pavement, down for gravel)
- Trip springs
- Examine trip springs
  - Proper tension
  - Broken or Bent

### SNOW DEFLECTOR

- Examine snow deflector
  - Mounted correctly
  - Tearing / wearing
  - Bolts tight?

### CUTTING EDGE

- Examine cutting edge
  - Cracking in welding, tears in rubber or chipped/cracked poly
  - Proper wear pattern
  - Missing fasteners
  - Tight-fitting fasteners
  - Containment plows only: Bottom back edge is ¼" to ½" below the bottom of the shoe

### FOR CONTAINMENT PLOW ONLY:

- Level attachment
- Examine the levelness of the attachment
  - The weight of the plow rests on the wear shoes. If the pusher is not level, the wear shoes will wear prematurely or unevenly
- Wear shoes
- Examine wear shoes
  - Bolts present and securely fastened
  - Excessive wear
  - Incorrect wear pattern (*means plow is not level*)

### A-FRAME

- Hinge pins
- Check hinge pins
  - Cotter and hair pins in place
- Bolts
- Check bolts
  - Securely fastened
- Welds
- Check weld conditions
  - Cracks/breaks
- Kingpin
- Check kingpin
  - Securely fastened (no excessive wear or movement)

### LIGHTS

- Check lights
- Proper angle and alignment
- In working order

### HYDRAULIC CONNECTIONS

- Hoses
- Check hoses
  - Tears/chafing/cracking
  - Secure clamps
  - Leaking
  - Couplers
  - No pinching
- Belts
- Check belts
  - Cracks
  - Proper tension
- Ram bolts or pins
- Check ram bolts or pins
  - Cotter and hairpins in place

### FLUID PUMP

- Check fluid pump
  - No leaks
  - Proper electric connection from battery to solenoid to electrical unit
  - Proper tension (*central hydraulics*)
  - No corrosion
  - Proper operation and overall condition

### ELECTRIC CONNECTIONS

- Check electrical connections
- Secure connections
- Pinched wires
- Dielectric grease
- No corrosion
- No damage to electrical pins
- Fuse condition
- Cracking or Fraying of wires and or plugs

### FOR CONTAINMENT PLOWS ONLY:

- Check hardware
- Plow securely fastened to the bucket with:
  - 2 chains
    - 1 end attached to pusher; 1 end attached to the welded hooks on the back of the bucket
    - Positioned so chains are parallel to the ground once connected

OR

- Direct coupler connection
  - Properly fitted together
  - Hydraulic locks in place  
(*if not a chained unit*)
  - 2 clevises
  - Ratchet binder

**This list is not all inclusive, but should give you a good start to a safety and pre-trip inspection program.**