

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Prep Checklist

While preparing for winter weather conditions, protect yourself and others from the dangers of extreme temperatures, strong winds, and on-site risks such as low visibility, poor walkway conditions, and passing vehicle traffic. This checklist outlines the necessary Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for snow and ice walkway technicians as well as additional points to protect on-site personnel and be prepared for any situation.

Eye Wear

Eye wear may include clear or tinted glasses depending on weather conditions or the time of day, but goggles may also be necessary in extreme conditions or while using equipment such as snowblowers, ATVs, UTVs, forced-air blowing equipment, or other walkway clearing equipment:

- Use eye wear that meets ANSI Z87.1 standards
- Always use when spreading granular or liquid deicing and anti-icing materials to prevent eye contamination

Ear Protection

Ear protection should be used while performing any task that includes unsafe noise levels:

- Use only ANSI S3.19-1974 NRR 33 approved ear protection

Wear when:

- using forced air to blow and remove snow;
- operating equipment with extreme noise levels; and/or
- working in any hazardous conditions that requires them

Gloves and Hand Protection

Utilize different types of gloves for different situations:

- Use thick waterproof gloves for protection against extremely low temperatures and low wind chills
- Make sure your gloves have a good grip for handling shovels, snowblowers, other sidewalk equipment, and/or grabbing railings
- Don't forget gloves that meet Safety Data Sheet (SDS) requirements for deicing and anti-icing products, such as impervious gloves that are commonly made of neoprene and rubber

Headwear and Hats

Have common types of headwear available to prevent frostbite or windburn, and those that protect your entire head from extreme conditions including:

- Beanies, balaclavas, helmet hats, and trappers are all acceptable forms of protection
- Consider the protection of your ears, neck, face/cheeks, and mouth/lips
- Have multiple options so that you are comfortable and protected in all conditions

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Boots and Footwear

Boots should be chemical resistant, waterproof, and protect against extremely cold conditions:

- Use boots that are breathable and comfortable for working extended hours
- If working with equipment (ATVs, UTVs, or other walkway equipment), composite or steel toe boots are beneficial in preventing injuries
- Have boots and boot covers with good traction and consider varying heights for different depths of snow especially if there's blizzard conditions or deep snow
- Don't forget cotton or thermal socks to protect feet

High Visibility (High Vis) PPE

High visibility PPE should be utilized on clothing such as hats, jackets, and pants when possible for additional safety during darkness or low-visibility conditions.

Pants and Leg Protection

Pants should be waterproof/weatherproof, resistant to tears and rips, and have reflective qualities:

- Consider winter weather pants that have removable outer linings that are thick and meant for extreme temperatures and high snow depths
- If temperatures are extremely low, it may be beneficial to wear thermal clothes underneath pants for additional protection

Jackets and Arm/Upper Body Protection

Jackets should reduce your skin's exposure to cold temperatures and water:

- Consider jackets with removable liners for comfort and temperature control
- Look for features such as hoods for head protection, outer pockets for hand protection, and inner pockets for safely storing phones and personal communication devices
- Above all else, your jacket should utilize high visibility qualities such as bright safety coloring and/or reflective materials

Pre-storm Supplies

Other items necessary for safety include:

- Pack extra clothing in a bag such as thermal clothes, shirts, pants, gloves, and socks so you are ready for any length of event or the possibility of being immobile for extended periods of time in extreme conditions
- Have healthy snacks and water on hand to maintain energy and to stay properly hydrated
- Keep first-aid kits and supplies on hand
- Use a smartphone or camera for taking pictures of any on-site risks or issues and for documenting property conditions after services are completed