



OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT
INSTITUTE

Safe Operation Practices Snow Blowers

Every year people go to the emergency room after suffering serious injuries when they ignore warnings and safe handling instructions and place their hands into the discharge chute of a snow blower.

Before using a snow blower:

1. **Read, understand, and follow all instructions** on the snow blower and in the operating manual before operating the equipment.
2. **Thoroughly familiarize yourself with the controls and the proper use** of the snow blower.
3. Know how to **stop the unit and disengage the controls** quickly.

NEVER PUT YOUR HAND INTO THE DISCHARGE CHUTE OR AUGER OF A SNOW BLOWER

To safely clear a clogged discharge chute or auger, follow these instructions:

1. Shut OFF the engine.
2. Wait 10 seconds to ensure the impeller blades have stopped rotating.
3. Always use a clean-out tool or stick; do not use your hands.

For further information, refer to the [Outdoor Power Equipment Institute \(OPEI\) safety page](#).

About OPEI

The Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI) is an international trade association representing more than 100 power equipment, engine and utility vehicle manufacturers and suppliers. OPEI is the advocacy voice of the industry, and a recognized Standards Development Organization for the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and active internationally through the International Standards Organization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) in the development of safety and performance standards. OPEI is managing partner of GIE+EXPO, the industry's annual international trade show, and the creative force behind the environmental education program, TurfMutt.com. OPEI-Canada represents members on a host of issues, including recycling, emissions and other regulatory developments across the Canadian provinces. For more information, visit www.OPEI.org