REAL ADVICE · SNOW

# BEFORE THE FIRST STORM:

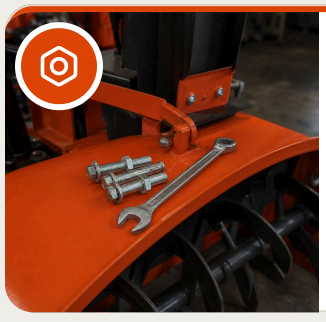
## A PRE-SEASON CHECK FOR YOUR TRACTOR SNOWBLOWER





KUBOTA CHRIS

The first real snowfall is the worst time to find out your blower has a problem. Half an hour now heads off most of it.



### SHEAR BOLTS

- Carry spares, and a wrench that fits.
- Use only the grade your manual specifies.
- A harder bolt won't shear, and the gearbox pays for it.



### SLIP CLUTCH

- If equipped, make sure it still slips.
- It can rust solid over the summer.
- Check it the way your manual describes.



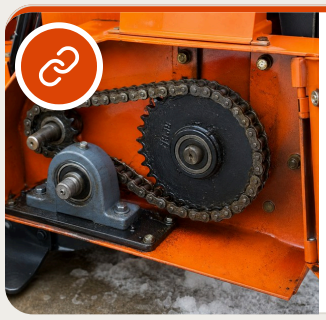
### GEARBOX AND DRIVELINE

- Top up gearbox oil with the manual's grade.
- Grease the U-joints; pull the halves apart, clean, grease.
- Grease every fitting; check the shields.



### AUGER, FAN AND CHUTE

- Key out, turn the auger by hand. Look for bent flighting.
- Chute turns fully; deflector moves freely.
- Hydraulic? Check hoses for cracks, couplers for leaks.



### CHAINS AND BEARINGS

- Set chain tension per the manual; oil lightly.
- Key out, turn the auger and fan by hand.
- Listen for a rough bearing; feel for play.



### SKID SHOES AND CUTTING EDGE

- Pavement: run close to the surface.
- Gravel: raise the shoes to ride above the stones.
- Flip or replace a worn cutting edge.



### THE TRACTOR SIDE

- Load-test the battery; check the block heater cord.
- Switch to winter-blend diesel.
- Tires, chains, lights and cab defrost.
- Ballast for that blower, per your manual.



### WALK THE LANEWAY

- Stake the edges and pick up rocks.
- Note culvert ends, garden borders, landscape lights.
- Ten minutes now saves a shear bolt at 6 a.m.

### ONE RULE THAT NEVER CHANGES

If the chute plugs, disengage the PTO, shut the engine off, take the key, and wait for everything to stop turning. Then clear it with a stick or a clean-out tool, never your hands.

***A blower can hold stored energy and turn again once the plug comes free, even with the engine off.***

*Every blower is a little different. Treat your operator's manual as the final word on specs and intervals.*

We're here to help when you need us.

CALL OR TEXT

**519-374-9461**

FULL ARTICLE

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