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Snow & Ice Recovery

My power went out. What should I do?

- If you have a fireplace or a kerosene space heater, use them carefully. Make sure your chimney isn't obstructed and never leave a heat/power source unattended.
- Get your Disaster Preparedness Kit, which should include flashlights, candles, matches and a portable battery-operated radio so you can listen to local weather reports.
- If you don't have a heat source, close off any rooms that aren't needed. Find extra towels and stuff them under the doors to retain heat. At night, cover windows with blankets.
- See below for tips on generator usage.
- Understand how to safely deal with electricity during and after storms by reviewing the electrical safety tips posted at [homedepot.com/weather](https://www.homedepot.com/weather).

Should I run a generator?

- It's very important that you don't run a generator in your home or garage. Wait until the snowstorm has passed before operating.
- Never hook a generator to the wiring of your house unless a special power transfer switch has been installed by a licensed electrician. Instead, plug appliances and other items into an extension cord which leads to the generator.
- The total wattage of all the electrical devices combined should never exceed the rated capacity of the generator or the extension cord.
- Make sure the generator is properly grounded and don't touch it if you, or it, are wet.
- To prevent fires, turn the generator off and allow it to cool before re-filling it with fuel.
- To easily find the ideal standby generator for your home, visit the interactive Generator Selector on [homedepot.com](https://www.homedepot.com).

My pipes are frozen or leaking! What do I do?

- Shut off water immediately to prevent further damage and water loss.
- Review The Home Depot's project guide, Emergency Quick Fixes for Frozen or Leaking Pipes, on [homedepot.com](https://www.homedepot.com).



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How can I keep my walkways and driveways safe?

- Ice forms a bond with concrete or asphalt that isn't usually broken by a snow shovel or blower so what you end up with, even after clearing snow, is a slippery mess. The solution is a de-icer or an anti-icer.
- De-icers are applied on top of snow or ice, not to melt the snow, but to break the bond between the ice and the pavement. This makes it easier to remove the snow and leaves behind a safer walking surface.
- The most common de-icer is rock salt and although it is extremely inexpensive, it also has the potential to do damage to lawns and gardens. Today, there are more environmentally friendly options available but it's still important to read the labels carefully and follow the instructions. Many people find that if they apply them just as the snow starts falling, the chemicals work better and they don't need to use as much.
- Anti-icers are applied before a snowfall begins and work to prevent the bond between ice and pavement from the get go.
- When shoveling snow, bend at the knees, not at the waist. Also, try coating the blade of your shovel with car polish to help it move through the snow more easily.
- To prevent damage to your yard when removing snow from an adjacent driveway, mark the edge of the driveway with reflectors.
- Using a potassium based de-icer instead of salt will prevent damage to concrete, grass and other vegetation or to carpets and floors if it's tracked inside.

I want to get a snow blower. What should I know?

- There are two main types of snow blowers, single-stage or two-stage models. A single stage model will typically clear a path about 16-to 18-inches wide with the help of an electric motor or a gas engine. The motor turns paddles which then scoop up the snow and force it aside. In most cases the paddles also help pull the machine forward through the snow. The two stage models tend to be larger and in addition to paddles, also have some sort of fan, to blow the snow out of a moveable chute. Most of the larger machines are powered through the snow with mechanically driven wheels which can also be reversed so they don't require as much man-handling.
- Always turn the machine off completely before attempting to clear a clog and don't refuel it while the engine is hot.
- Use The Home Depot's Snow Blower Finder on [homedepot.com](https://www.homedepot.com) to choose the best snow blower for your needs.



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Helpful products for snow and ice preparation and recovery:

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| ☐ Air Filters | ☐ Pellet Burning Stove |
| ☐ Batteries & Chargers | ☐ Pipe Insulation |
| ☐ Broom | ☐ Pipe Wrench |
| ☐ Buckets & Mop Pails | ☐ Plastic Sheeting |
| ☐ Caulking & Sealant | ☐ Pliers |
| ☐ Cleaning Solutions | ☐ Portable Generator |
| ☐ Cloth & Duct Tape | ☐ Propane |
| ☐ Concrete, Cement & Masonry | ☐ Pruning Shears |
| ☐ Construction Adhesive | ☐ Rags, Cloths & Sponges |
| ☐ Cordless Drill | ☐ Roof Coatings |
| ☐ Cordless Screwdriver | ☐ Roofing Caulk |
| ☐ DampRid | ☐ Roofing Felt & Underlayment |
| ☐ Dust Masks & Respirators | ☐ Roofing Shingles & Tiles |
| ☐ Extension Cords | ☐ Saw Horse & Workbench |
| ☐ Faucet Cover | ☐ Screwdriver (Hand Tool) |
| ☐ First Aid Kit | ☐ Snow Blower and Accessories |
| ☐ Flashlights | ☐ Snow Shovels & Brushes |
| ☐ Grill | ☐ Storm Doors |
| ☐ Hammers, Mallets & Sledges | ☐ Tape |
| ☐ Ice Melt | ☐ Thresholds |
| ☐ Insulating Foam Sealant | ☐ Trash & Refuse Bags |
| ☐ Insulation | ☐ Utility Knives & Blades |
| ☐ Ladder | ☐ Water Heater |
| ☐ Measuring Tape | ☐ Weather Stripping |
| ☐ Mold & Mildew Cleaners | ☐ Wet/Dry Vacuum |
| ☐ Nails | |