

Snow Plows & Spreaders

- BUYING GUIDE -



Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	1
CHAPTER 1 How Winter Weather Affects Road Conditions	4
CHAPTER 2 What Are Snow Plows?	11
CHAPTER 3 What Are Salt Spreaders?	18
CHAPTER 4 Snow Plows and Spreader Equipment	25
CONCLUSION	31

INTRODUCTION

How Winter Weather Affects Road Conditions

Can you remember snowball fights or celebrating snow days? While winter may be a fun season for kids, it's often a frustrating time of year for adults or anyone who has to travel regularly. Drivers know how dangerous and time consuming it can be to traverse snowy or icy roads. Thankfully, snow plows and salt spreaders make it possible to get where you need to go despite the weather forecast.

How Winter Weather Affects Road Conditions

Winter weather, which includes snow, ice, freezing rain and drifting snow, can make roads slippery, dangerous and challenging to travel over. Sometimes, layers of ice hide beneath slush or snow and may cause drivers to lose control of their vehicle when they least expect it. Both freezing rain and snow may also impair visibility. Overall, winter weather conditions increase crash risk and slow traffic.



Nearly 6 million car crashes occur
each year due to weather conditions.

According to the Department of Transportation (DOT), [nearly 6 million car crashes occur each year](#) due to weather conditions. About 18% of weather-related accidents occur when it's snowing or sleeting, and 13% happen on icy pavement. Snow and ice lead to millions of hours of delay each year, costing trucking companies billions of dollars annually. If you own a business in a snowy region, you likely know what it's like to have employees call off due to road conditions. You can greatly improve access to your business with the help of winter maintenance equipment.

How Snow Plows and Spreaders Improve Road Conditions

Snow plows and salt spreaders make an effective team when it comes to battling snow. Snow plows remove snow buildup from roads while spreaders coat road surfaces with salt. Salt keeps ice from bonding with the pavement and makes it easier to plow road surfaces. You need both types of equipment for optimum snow and ice removal.

What You'll Learn in This Guide

Snow plows and salt spreaders help keep roads and parking lots safe. Business owners can protect customers and continue operations with the help of snow removal equipment. Homeowners, especially those who live in rural areas, can use personal plows and spreaders to prevent themselves from being snowed in.

If you're interested in buying a snow plow and spreader to prepare for winter, you probably have some questions. In this guide, we'll show you how to make a wise investment. We'll cover topics such as:

- How to buy a snow plow
- How winter weather impacts businesses
- How snow plows and spreaders work

- Plow and spreader maintenance tips
- How to store equipment out of season

Without snow plows and salt spreaders, businesses would shut down, homeowners would be trapped inside, and roads would be impossible to use. Thanks to snow removal equipment, life goes on, even when a polar vortex doesn't want to give up.

At All Pro Trailer Superstore, we supply the best names in snow plows and salt spreaders. Whether you're searching for a [dependable salt spreader for sale](#) or a [heavy-duty snow plow](#), we are your go-to source for winter maintenance equipment.

The Importance of Winter Maintenance Equipment

For many Americans, snow and ice is part of their reality come wintertime. According to the DOT, [over 70% of roads](#) in the United States are located within snowy regions. A Pennsylvanian might see anywhere [from 8 to 100 inches](#) of snow each year, for example, depending on where they live within the state. In central Pennsylvania, the average annual snowfall ranges from about 31 inches to 46 inches a year. This doesn't mean Pennsylvania residents need to hibernate for winter. Snow removal equipment lessens the impact of extreme weather events on businesses and helps keep residents safe.

In this chapter, we'll explore the importance of commercial snow removal equipment and how weather affects the economy. If you have more questions about professional snow removal equipment or would like to know your options as a homeowner, [contact us at Trailer Superstore](#), where we're ready to help.

What Is Winter Maintenance Equipment?

Winter maintenance equipment refers to a range of tools used before, during and after a snowstorm to keep snow and ice from accumulating. You may have heard the terms de-icing, which refers to the removal of snow and ice, and anti-icing, which is the practice of treating roadways with chemicals before a storm to make it easier to plow.

WHAT IS Winter Maintenance Equipment?

- ▶ Plows
- ▶ Salt Spreaders
- ▶ Liquid Spreaders
- ▶ Wheel Loaders
- ▶ Snow Blowers
- ▶ Motor Graders
- ▶ Trucks



Both de-icing and anti-icing make up a winter maintenance strategy and require the use of specialized equipment, such as:

- Plows
- Salt spreaders
- Liquid spreaders
- Wheel loaders
- Snow blowers
- Motor graders
- Trucks

Heavy-duty vehicles like trucks, loaders and motor graders can be fitted with plows to remove snow from streets, parking lots and other areas. Salt spreaders can be mounted to vehicles to scatter salt or sand on roads.

Winter maintenance teams also use support equipment to achieve their goals. Support equipment refers to:

- Salt, sand or other spreading materials
- Salt bins
- Transport trailers
- Accessories such as plow guards or lights

Equipment owners must consider how they'll transport winter maintenance tools to and from snow removal sites, and they also need to make sure they have adequate storage space for their machinery.

How Does Winter Weather Affect Businesses?

Winter weather makes a big impact on the economy because it affects business operations and influences consumer behavior.



It's hard to predict exactly how much snow costs the economy, but experts guess **it's in the millions each year** for states located in snowy regions. Here are a few reasons why businesses take a hit during a winter storm:

- **Employees call off:** Employees may not be able to report to work during a snowstorm, which slows production and increases lost revenue. Employers must also find ways to replace employees who can't make it in, which may mean paying other workers overtime. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), lost productivity linked to absenteeism costs employers **over \$225 billion a year in the United States**. Simply said, when employees call off, businesses lose money.

- **Customers stay home:** Customer activity declines because people are not willing to drive during winter weather events. For example, in January 2013, during a polar vortex, there was a 3% drop in sales in the auto industry. While grocery stores might see a boost in customer activity right before a storm, other types of businesses, such as restaurants, can expect a drop in sales.
- **Businesses close:** If there's no way for employees to make it to work, a business may have to close its doors during a storm. When a business closes, it loses money because it can't make any sales or produce goods. It may also lose customers to competitors. For some companies, just a single day of shutting down leads to substantial loss. According to a Boston Herald article, retailers lost roughly \$10 million every day they closed or stayed open but had little business during a snowstorm. IHS Global Insight claims that a major snowstorm costs businesses and government agencies between \$300 and \$700 million with only a single-day shutdown.
- **Businesses face legal risks:** Icy parking lots and sidewalks put businesses at risk of personal injury lawsuits. No matter the size, no company is immune to a lawsuit. With a lawsuit comes the cost of hiring lawyers, settling the case and repairing a damaged reputation. It's best to prevent a lawsuit from happening in the first place.
- **Inventory suffers:** Suppliers may not be able to deliver inventory during or after a snowstorm, which means businesses may not be able to stay on schedule or meet their customers' needs. A winter storm could also damage inventory, depending on the type. For example, if you own a restaurant and have to close during a storm due to a power outage, you won't be able to sell perishable items to customers once you reopen.

The good news is companies can prepare for winter weather and reduce its impact. Even if snow or ice keeps customers and employees home for a day, the right tools can get you back on track faster and with much less effort. Competitors who can't handle the snow won't be able to keep up with your business.

The Dangers of Not Having Winter Maintenance Equipment

There are some items business owners can skip and still keep customers and employees happy. For example, a grocery store doesn't need an indoor pool to attract and retain customers. Other items, like pieces of snow removal equipment, are must-haves for businesses and some homeowners in snowy regions.



Not owning winter maintenance equipment is too great a risk to take, and here are the reasons why:

- **It's hazardous:** Icy or snowy surfaces can lead to injured employees or customers. Businesses could face a lawsuit if someone slips and injures themselves because the company neglected to maintain its property. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, [thousands of workers were injured in falls](#) involving ice, sleet or snow in states such as New York, Pennsylvania and Michigan in 2014. Likewise, homeowners need a way to get out of their homes quickly and safely in an emergency. It's just not worth it to not be prepared. Fortunately, you have many options to help you keep parking areas and sidewalks free of snow.

- **Shoveling is dangerous and time-consuming:** Removing snow with a shovel can be dangerous. According to the National Safety Council, shoveling snow causes [thousands of injuries a year](#) and as many as 100 deaths. Without the right equipment, it can take hours to remove snow from a driveway, sidewalk and parking lot. Plows, on the other hand, remove snow quickly and efficiently. Plow operators are less likely to overexert themselves and more likely to produce clear, safe surfaces in less time than someone who shovels.
- **It's bad for business:** Not owning winter maintenance equipment is also costly in a business sense. If people can't safely walk to a business or find somewhere to park, they are more likely to go to a competitor. Keeping your property well-maintained all year long shows you care about your customers, and you're proud of your company.

Why Owning Equipment Is Better Than Renting

It's important to own winter maintenance equipment rather than rent so that you're always prepared for the next big storm. Purchasing snow removal equipment is an investment that has several advantages, such as:

- **It's more affordable in the long run:** If you live somewhere that promises snow or ice every winter, it usually doesn't make sense to spend money renting equipment when you can own machinery you'll use every year. When you own snow removal equipment, you also don't have to hire someone to clear your property or pay extra for a fast response.
- **You can always sell equipment:** You can't get your money back when you rent equipment, but you can sell what you own. If you ever decide to head south and no longer need your snow plow or salt spreader, you may be able to sell these items and get a return on your investment.
- **You can upgrade equipment whenever you want:** When you own snow removal equipment, you can add accessories or change pieces to suit your requirements whenever you want. You'll enjoy greater flexibility with the type of snow removal work you can do, and you can always be prepared.

- **You can use the equipment whenever you need to:** Perhaps the greatest reason to own equipment rather than rent is to always have it on hand. That way, you can be ready for unpredictable winter weather, and you won't have to scramble to find help.

If you're eager to shop for plows, spreaders or trailers to haul your winter equipment, [browse our inventory at Trailer Superstore](#) and prepare for a productive winter.

What Are Snow Plows?

Snow plows help businesses and homeowners quickly and safely remove snow from their property. They've been around [since the 19th century](#) when snow removal became a necessity in cities like New York and Chicago. One of the first known uses of a snow plow occurred in 1862 in Milwaukee when horses pulled a cart with an attached plow through the streets. It didn't take long for towns and cities to realize there's no better way to remove snow than with a plow.

Although they're typically no longer drawn by horses, plows are still the main tool for snow removal. According to the Minnesota Department of Transportation, an analysis of various winter maintenance strategies found that plowing is the [most effective form of winter maintenance](#).

Today's snow plows are available in a range of shapes and sizes to suit different needs and budgets. You'll find options whether you need to plow your driveway or free up parking spaces for your customers. If you live in a snowy state, know that you can put your shovel away forever and use better equipment that saves you back pain and time.

In this chapter, we'll show you how snow plows work and provide tips for buying the right tool for your home or business. If you're ready to equip your truck now, keep reading to learn more, or [browse our selection of snow plows](#) at All Pro Trailer Superstore.

What Are Snow Plows and How Do They Work?

A **snow plow** is an **attachment** that's typically mounted on the front of a vehicle for snow and ice removal. Plows are usually connected to trucks, loaders or motor grades. These vehicles are durable and strong enough to bear the weight of a plow and push snow.

Plows come in many shapes and sizes and are **designed to scoop and push snow to the side to clear a road.**



Plows come in many shapes and sizes and are designed to scoop and push snow to the side to clear a road. The DOT might use a 12-foot-wide reversible plow, for example, to clear a 10-foot-wide path. The operator maneuvers the plow from inside the cab using levers or a controller.

Plows are often used in conjunction with salt spreaders, though they can be used independently. De-icing chemicals may be applied first to loosen compact snow and make it easier to plow.

The Different Types of Snow Plows

Manufacturers produce a wide variety of plows for different needs and applications. For example, a dump truck used to clear a highway will need a plow that's wide enough to handle the job. A smaller plow designed for a pickup truck is the better choice for clearing a driveway.

Let's look at the different types of plows to help you choose the right one:

- **Front-end plows:** Front-end plows are the most common type of plow. DOTs across the country use [as many as 950 front-end plows](#) every season. Front-end plows come in many varieties such as reversible, straight or V-plow. Straight plows are the basic blade you'll commonly see on pickup trucks. Reversible plows move snow to the left or right. V-plows are designed to handle deep snow and push it to both sides. V-plows are often used on large trucks.
- **Tow plows:** A tow plow mounts on the rear of a truck and pushes snow in the same direction as the front-end plow. A tow plow and front-end plow work together to clear a much wider area of snow or an additional 26 feet.
- **Rotary plows:** Rotary plows are similar to snow blowers. They blow snow from the sides of roads to widen the space and make room for more snowfall. Rotary plows can be found in extremely snowy regions, like in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, for example, where [over 500 inches of snow](#) can fall a year.
- **Wing plows:** Wing plows are smaller side-mounted plows designed to increase path width and plowing efficiency. They are often attached to the side of a front plow. However, they may also be placed in the middle or rear. A wing plow allows a vehicle to push ice and snow further to the side to clear a path of up to 22-feet-wide. Business owners and government agencies use wing plows because they remove more snow in less time.
- **Underbody plows:** Underbody plows are fixed underneath a vehicle and are used to help scrape packed snow from the roads. They may be applied with front plows to tackle deep snow or used as stand-alone solutions.

The typical snow plow consists of the following components:

- **Moldboard:** The moldboard is the blade, often composed of steel or polyethylene, that pushes the snow to the side. You might think of the moldboard as the body of the plow.
- **Cutting edge:** The cutting edge is situated at the bottom of the moldboard and helps protect it from damage. Cutting edges might be made of steel, carbide, rubber, polymer or a combination of materials.
- **Shoe:** A shoe is an additional cutting edge attached to the end of the moldboard. Its purpose is to protect the plow from the curb.

At Trailer Superstore, we offer the [Hiniker Trip-Edge Scoop Plow](#) with a distinct concave shape for fast, effective plowing; the [expandable stainless steel SnowDogg Plow](#) for width control; the heavy-duty [SnowDogg V-Plow](#); plus a range of plow sizes for large and small trucks.

The Benefits of Owning a Snow Plow



BENEFITS OF Owning a Snow Plow

- ✓ Shows customers you care
- ✓ Decreases the risk of slips and falls
- ✓ Brings peace of mind
- ✓ Makes life easier
- ✓ Helps prevent indoor messiness

There are many benefits to owning a snow plow whether your business exists in a commercial building or your home, such as:

- **Shows customers you care:** When you own a plow, you can remove ice and snow whenever you need to and always have a well-maintained lot. Customers will appreciate the effort you put into keeping them safe while they visit your building.
- **Decreases the risk of slips and falls:** Plowing, along with spreading salt or sand, allows you to clear a surface and add traction. After you plow, employees and customers can walk to your building with confidence and without the fear of falling and injuring themselves. A plow also helps you prevent car crashes on your property.
- **Brings peace of mind:** As a business owner, you can enjoy peace of mind knowing you've taken the proper steps to protect your workers and customers during and after a snowstorm. Homeowners can feel more secure when they have a plow on hand because they can clear their driveways quickly and keep snow from accumulating.
- **Makes life easier:** When you own a plow, you can make it easy for yourself, customers and employees to park and access the building. You also don't have to worry about who you'll hire to save the day or how you'll get snow under control in time. Customers can depend on your business regardless of the season.
- **Helps prevent indoor messiness:** Snow isn't just a hazard on the road. When people drag snow indoors on their shoes and clothes, it eventually melts and turns into a slippery puddle. When you can plow and lay down salt, customers and employees don't have to trudge through the snow to get inside. As a result, you'll have less of a mess, and fewer lawsuits, on your hands.

In a perfect world, we would know precisely when it's going to snow and how much. In reality, snow can happen at any time and fall as if the sky collapsed. When you own a snow plow, the ever-changing forecast is less problematic because you already have what you need to handle a storm.

Tips for Choosing a Snow Plow

How do you buy the right snow plow? The best snow plow to buy depends on your needs, budget, the type of plowing you plan to do, whether you want to buy new or used, and other factors.

Consider the following when choosing your snow plow:

- ▶ Size
- ▶ Purpose
- ▶ Material
- ▶ Quality
- ▶ Dealer
- ▶ Features



Make sure to consider the following when choosing your snow plow:

- **Size:** You need to consider the weight of your vehicle so that you can select the right-sized plow. You'll want to avoid buying a plow that's too big or too small for your vehicle to prevent damage to either piece of machinery. Your vehicle's front gross axle weight rating (GAWR) will guide you in the right direction.
- **Purpose:** Choose a plow that has the width and angle you need to serve its purpose. For example, do you need a commercial plow that offers versatility so you can clear roadways in a range of settings? If so, consider a V-plow. Do you only need a plow to clear your driveway? A straight blade plow should do the job just fine. Also, think about the width of the area you need to clear. A wider plow will clear a wider space.
- **Material:** Consider blade material and the performance you need. For example, steel is often the material-of-choice due to its durability and strength. A steel plow is an excellent option for home and business owners who need a reliable blade.

- **Quality:** Buying a snow plow is an investment. Your plow can serve you for many years if you choose a quality piece of equipment. Therefore, it's worth spending extra on a plow that's built to last.
- **Dealer:** Consider the plow dealer, and if they are reliable and offer repair services. The dealer should be available to help you before, during and after you purchase your equipment.
- **Features:** Decide whether you need features like lighting for plowing in the dark or wing extensions. If a plow doesn't come with lighting, consider buying a light kit so you can plow any time of day if needed.

Need assistance in making the right choice? Reach out to us at [Trailer Superstore](#), and we'll be happy to help.

What Are Salt Spreaders?

It's true — nothing beats a plow when it comes to snow removal. However, if you want to get down to the bare pavement, you'll need some assistance. This is where salt spreaders come in handy.

You've probably walked on a salt-covered sidewalk before during the winter. Chances are, you appreciated walking on salt rather than slipping on ice. Believe it or not, Americans were not too happy about road salt when it first appeared as a snow-removal tool [in the 1800s](#). Salt damaged the shoes and clothing of pedestrians and made the streets unsuitable for sleigh drivers.

During the 20th century, cities realized that salt was more effective when applied to ice and light snowfall rather than tossed on piles of snow. With plows leaving behind layers of ice, consumers were demanding salt and sand to make the roads safer for traveling. Soon, businesses and residents were throwing tons of salt on driveways and sidewalks to keep them ice-free. Cities initially salted the roads by [shoveling salt out of the beds of trucks](#), which was physically demanding.

Eventually, spreaders were attached to trucks to distribute fertilizer for agricultural purposes. Today, spreaders are designed to distribute salt efficiently at controlled flow rates and high speeds.

Salt spreaders are a crucial component of winter road maintenance and are often used in conjunction with plows. Salt lowers the freezing point of water and ultimately prevents ice formation.

In this chapter, we'll show you how salt spreaders work, the different types of spreaders available and how to choose the right device for your vehicle.

What Are Salt Spreaders and How Do They Work?

A salt spreader is a device used to distribute a solid material on the road. A salt spreader attaches to the rear of a vehicle and disperses salt or sand as the vehicle moves along. Typically the operator will use sodium chloride in the form of solid rock salt. Calcium chloride, potassium chloride and magnesium chloride are other options.

Once a spreader is mounted onto a truck, the operator fills the hopper with salt and turns it on. Operators control the auger and spinner from inside the cab to regulate how much of the material is spread per mile. The auger pulls the material, such as salt, from the hopper towards the discharge chute. The spinner disk distributes the salt over a wide area.



Spreaders are used to apply salt to roads during the de-icing stage. De-icing occurs after snow and ice have already accumulated and bonded with surfaces. Salt is not meant to melt snow, but rather keep it from adhering to the pavement. It can be difficult to remove ice from roadways without the use of de-icing materials, nor is it suitable for a plow. De-icing chemicals must be used to break the bond between ice and the road.

Generally, you'll want to plow snow and loose ice before applying de-icing materials. However, you might spread salt during a snowstorm to make it easier to clear ice and snow with a plow afterward if the conditions are right.

Salt loses its effectiveness as temperatures drop. For example, at 10 F, it takes an hour for salt to melt a 1/8-inch-thick layer of ice. The Minnesota Department of Transportation recommends not using salt [at temperatures below 15 F](#) because it won't melt fast enough, and it's not cost-effective.

When it's too cold for salt to work, you can use your spreader to apply sand or another abrasive material. Sand will not melt anything, but it will make surfaces less slippery. It's best only to use sand when necessary because it clogs sewers and ditches. You might use a salt-sand mix during freezing rain to help keep salt from washing away. Otherwise, it's not recommended to use a blend because salt makes sand less effective.

Types of Spreader Equipment

Like plows, spreaders are available in a range of sizes and shapes for various applications. Types of salt spreaders include:

- **Tailgate spreaders:** Tailgate spreaders feature high-capacity hoppers and mount on the rear of a vehicle. Tailgate spreaders are considered dependable and straightforward and are perfect for keeping the bed of your truck open.
- **In-bed spreaders:** In-bed, or V-box, salt spreaders are popular commercial salt spreaders commonly used by professionals. These types of spreaders sit in the bed of a truck and feature various moving parts. In-bed spreaders are ideal for big projects.
- **Tow-behind spreaders:** Tow-behind spreaders are pulled by a vehicle or tractor. They are better at covering a large area than a walk-behind spreader but are less accurate than a tailgate or in-bed spreader.

- **Walk-behind spreaders:** A walk-behind spreader looks and functions similar to a wheelbarrow and requires you to push the hopper with a handle and two wheels. A walk-behind spreader is an excellent choice for salting sidewalks or tight spaces.

At Trailer Superstore, you'll find [high-quality SaltDogg tailgate and in-bed spreaders](#) to help you cover driveways, parking lots and more.

The Benefits of Owning a Commercial Salt Spreader

Simply said, salt spreaders keep ice from sticking to the pavement and therefore reduce accidents. For maximum snow removal, you need a salt spreader to complement your plow.



Here are more reasons why it's worth adding a salt spreader to your arsenal of winter tools:

- **Spreaders are versatile:** Spreaders have multiple applications and allow you to spread various materials. For example, you can use the same spreader to apply sand over snow-covered surfaces as you use for salt, so you don't need to buy a separate device.

- **They save time and effort:** Although you can grab a bag of salt and coat your parking lot by hand, is it really something you have time for when your business needs to open in 10 minutes? A salt spreader gets the job done fast and doesn't require you to freeze your hands.
- **Salt spreaders clear the road completely:** Plows can't clear the road down to the bare pavement, but salt spreaders can. Therefore, without a salt spreader, you'll still have a slick parking lot or driveway and risky conditions for employees, customers and guests.
- **Spreaders are a freezing-rain solution:** Unfortunately, you can't plow freezing rain, which can be a problem. Freezing rain causes icy pavement, which leads to [about 520 deaths a year](#) and over 150,000 car crashes. A salt spreader gives you the power to clear roads during freezing rain.

Tips for Choosing a Salt Spreader

If you live in a snowy area, you'll get a lot of use out of a salt spreader. But, that doesn't mean any type of spreader will do.

Consider the following when choosing your salt spreader:

- ▶ Weight & Size
- ▶ Capacity
- ▶ Ease of Use
- ▶ Durability
- ▶ Purpose



You'll need to consider various factors when choosing the best spreader for your applications, such as the size of your vehicle, the surface you'll be clearing and [the material you'll use](#).

Make sure to consider the following:

- **Weight and size:** If you choose an in-bed spreader, you'll need to keep in mind you'll be placing it in the bed of your truck, while a tailgate salt spreader will be mounted to the back. Choose a spreader that your vehicle is capable of hauling in harsh weather conditions.
- **Capacity:** Think about the capacity you need for the route. You'll have to consider the size of the area you need to cover. Tailgate or in-bed spreaders are both great options for big jobs or commercial routes, whereas a walk-behind spreader makes the most sense for sidewalk applications.
- **Ease of use:** Choose a spreader that's easy to load, attach and operate so you can start using your equipment right away.
- **Durability:** A salt spreader should be durable and resistant to corrosion. Just like your plow, your salt spreader is an investment that should last you many years. It's worth prioritizing quality over savings as you shop because you'll spend less on replacement parts and repairs in the long run.
- **Purpose:** Choose the right device for the job, and consider whether you need a commercial salt spreader or one for personal use.

Still have questions? We can [help you choose the best salt spreader](#) for your vehicle and salting requirements.

The Best Way to Spread Salt

The best way to spread salt as a de-icer is to remove as much snow as possible before application. Remember, salt does not melt snow — it keeps ice from bonding with pavement.



The best way to spread salt as a de-icer is to **remove as much snow as possible** before application.

Also, keep in mind that [salt must mix with water](#) to prevent ice formation, so there's no need to spread more than what's necessary. According to the Wisconsin Transportation Information Center, it's most effective to spread [100 to 300 pounds](#) of salt per single lane mile. Other tips to remember include:

- Spread salt sparingly in high foot traffic areas.
- Properly store salt to keep it dry — it should not have a moisture content of greater than 1.5%.
- Use just enough salt to break the bond between snow and ice so it can be plowed.
- If possible, salt before it snows or [when a storm begins](#) to keep snow or ice from sticking to the pavement.
- Consider the temperature — salt won't work if the pavement temperature is below 15 F.
- Make sure spreading equipment is properly calibrated to prevent oversalting and protect the environment.
- Turn off the auger whenever you stop, even if just for a moment.

Snow Plows and Spreader Equipment

Now that we've covered the basics, you're ready for the next step. In this chapter, we'll help you explore your plow and spreader options further. We'll also provide tips for maintaining and storing your winter maintenance equipment so you'll be ready to get through many more snowstorms.

What Is the Best Snow Plow to Buy?

Buying a plow is an investment that can serve you and your community for a long time.



The best plow to buy depends on
your needs and intended use.

The best plow to buy depends on your needs and intended use. It's critical to choose a durable plow that's built to last. You'll also want to buy a plow from a reputable dealer who will be there to assist you during and after you make a purchase.

When it comes to choosing the best material for your plow, you have two main choices — polyethylene (poly) or steel. Poly and steel are both high-quality materials for a plow but have their differences.

Poly is [best for corrosion resistance](#), while steel has excellent cutting abilities. However, stainless steel is known for its corrosion resistance in addition to its durability. You can expect high-quality and outstanding performance with [all SnowDogg plows](#).

How Wide Should a Snow Plow Be?

The width of the plow should suit the front gross axle weight rating (FGAWR) of your vehicle. It also helps to know the rear gross axle weight rating (RGAWR) and the gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR). The GVWR is not how much your vehicle weighs but represents the weight limit. The GVWR is usually found on a label in the door frame. Generally, heavier trucks can handle wider blades. You can also call your vehicle manufacturer to find out how much weight your truck can haul.

Knowing how much your vehicle can carry on its front axle is the first thing you'll want to consider when shopping for a plow. Also, think about whether you plan to do residential or commercial plowing to help you select the right size and shape. At Trailer Superstore, we offer a range of plow sizes for small trucks and large vehicles. Tell us what you're looking for, and we'll help you make the best choice for your needs and budget.

What Is the Best Salt Spreader for Sidewalks?

A walk-behind spreader is the best tool for salting sidewalks and narrow pathways. A walk-behind spreader allows you to spread salt efficiently and evenly and helps prevent oversalting.

How to Maintain Snow Plows and Spreaders

Year after year of harsh winter weather takes its toll, even on the toughest pieces of equipment. Proper equipment maintenance helps extend equipment lifespans and ensures plows and spreaders work to their full capacities.

It's a good idea to inspect equipment in the summer or fall and make repairs if needed. You'll also want to check equipment after every storm.



Here are more maintenance tips to help you make the most of your wintertime tools:

- **Inspect parts for damage:** Check the moldboard and cutting edge condition of your plow and look for cracks. Make sure cutting edges are correctly aligned and replace excessively worn shoes. Inspect hoses, the plow power unit and other important parts. Mount, load and test the spreader. Inspect the spreader spinner, auger, pumps, hoses, controls and fittings. Look for any loose or missing bolts.

- **Check fluids and lubricate:** Check hydraulic fluid and change after each season. Keep moving parts lubricated.
- **Wash equipment:** Clean, wash and allow equipment to dry after each storm. Make sure to empty and clean the salt spreader after each use and rinse the salt off your blade. Washing equipment extends its life, improves efficiency and minimizes corrosion.
- **Calibrate spreaders:** You should calibrate your salt spreader before each season, a couple of times during the season and any time you change the material. The goal is to calibrate application rates for the minimum amount of salt required. You'll need a helping hand to complete this process. One person will measure the output while the other will control the spreader. Document the settings and amounts of material used.

How to Store Snow Plows and Spreaders

How you store your winter maintenance equipment is just as crucial as making repairs and inspecting components for damage. Generally, you want to make sure your pieces are clean, dry and protected from the elements when they are not in use. Proper storage protects plows and spreaders from corrosion, damage and theft. It also keeps materials in great shape throughout the summer, so you don't have to replace them when winter rolls around again. Just consider the storage facility location, size and accessibility so you can easily remove your equipment when its time to prepare for the season. Here are other simple tips for proper equipment storage:

- Never store plows or spreaders without cleaning them first.
- Remove equipment from vehicles and repair any damaged parts before storing them.
- Store plows on a pallet indoors or covered with a tarp.
- Store equipment in a dry, secure location.

- Properly store salt to prevent runoff.
- Make sure the equipment is kept off of the floor and protected from precipitation.

How to Purchase Snow Plows and Spreaders From All Pro Trailer Superstore

At All Pro Trailer Superstore, we make it easy to select the best commercial snow plow and salt spreader for your truck.



SNOW PLOWS & SPREADERS FROM
All Pro Trailer Superstore

We offer a vast selection of new and used snow plows, salt spreaders and trailers from manufacturers you can trust.

We offer a vast selection of new and used snow plows, salt spreaders and trailers from manufacturers you can trust. And, we're excited to consider your needs and help you choose. Our knowledgeable team is driven to go beyond customer expectations and assist you before, during and after purchasing winter maintenance equipment.

To buy your equipment, you can browse our selection now or contact our team for information and guidance. Don't live near our showroom in central Pennsylvania? No problem. We offer delivery services nationwide and internationally.

If you're concerned about budget, we got you covered with that, too. We're committed to helping all of our customers obtain the equipment they need for their homes or businesses, and we partner with Sheffield Financial to [offer financing services for customers.](#)

Whether you're wondering how to use a salt spreader or which type of plow to buy for your truck, our professionals are ready to answer your questions and help you make the right choice.

CONCLUSION

Contact Trailer Superstore Today

There are many reasons to love the winter, such as picturesque snowy hillsides and holiday celebrations. But as any snowy region resident knows, driving in the winter is a different story. It's hard to enjoy driving when roads are slippery and dangerous. It might seem easier and safer to stay inside when a snowstorm strikes.

Businesses and homeowners don't need to close their doors during the winter. Snow plows and salt dispensers give you control of your property and allow you to clear the way for customers, employees and yourself. With winter maintenance equipment, you can keep business running all winter long and prevent snow-related injuries.

At All Pro Trailer Superstore, we understand that businesses and homeowners need access to roads, parking lots, sidewalks and driveways at all times. We also know how frustrating it can be to handle snow and ice without the proper equipment. We offer high-quality plows and spreaders from top names to ensure our customers can make snow and ice removal a simple, fast and effective process. Whether you're looking for salt spreaders or snow plows for sale, we're here to offer great deals, unbeatable customer service and high-performing equipment. Browse [our selection of plows and spreaders](#), or [contact our team](#) to learn more.

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