

Which snowblower is right for me?

Winter has definitely arrived in Ontario, which means that many people are thinking about a new snowblower. If you're a contractor, you may be looking to upgrade your fleet. If you're a homeowner, maybe you've moved to a property with a larger driveway, or your old snowblower has seen better days, or maybe you've simply decided this is the winter you're finally going to stop shovelling.

Whatever your reason is for considering a new snowblower this year, you're doing your research. You're shopping around, comparing makes, models, features, and prices, trying to keep in mind all the factors to consider before making your decision. But it could be that you're still not quite sure about what snowblower is the right fit for you.

We're proud to be able to extend our existing snow-clearing offerings this winter with the full range of residential and commercial walk-behind snowblowers from Honda Power Equipment. We're also invested in helping you make the right choices when it comes to your equipment needs. Read on for our quick tips on narrowing down the field:

What conditions will you be dealing with?

This is the most obvious thing to think about, but there are a number of factors to consider, so it's worth breaking it down a little:

- The size of area to be cleared: Single-stage snowblower models, like the Honda HS720 series, top out at a 20-22" clearing width, while larger dual-, or two-stage models can clear from 24" to 32" or even more with each pass. If you have a small- to mid-sized driveway and walkway, a smaller, lighter single-stage unit may be a good choice.
- The type of terrain to be cleared: If your driveway is on a hill or otherwise features uneven terrain, a self-propelled dual-stage snowblower will reduce operator fatigue. Some models, such as the Honda HSS724 series, feature the option of tracks instead of wheels for maximum traction in harsh conditions.
- Where will you be blowing the snow: If you have a limited space to direct the snow into as it comes out of the chute, consider a model with remote chute control that makes it easy for you to frequently change the direction and angle of the stream of snow as you work.
- Driveway surface: If you have a paved area to clear, a single-stage model will clear right down to the hard surface. However, if your surface is gravel, a dual-stage snowblower is the way to go. Its auger does not touch the ground, so you'll avoid picking up stones and throwing them along with the snow.
- Depth of snow: How deep is the snow you'll typically have to tackle? Single-stage models can handle light to medium snowfalls well, but a dual-stage machine will have more engine power, plus a larger intake. If you frequently

deal with heavy snowfalls, deep drifts, or a wall of thick snow left by a plow at the end of your driveway, a dual-stage snowblower will churn through it much more effectively than a lighter-duty model.

Who will be using the snowblower?

It's easy to get caught up with the size and power of a snowblower, but don't forget to consider who will be doing the blowing—it may not make sense to buy a machine that can't be used by everyone who might need to.

If that's a concern, single-stage machines are simpler to operate and are lighter and smaller than dual-stage units, making them easier to manoeuvre. You may even be able to lift one up and use it to clear your front porch or deck. As a bonus, because of their smaller size, single-stage snowblowers will take up less room in your garage or shed in the off-season.

Alternately, dual-stage snowblowers offer the convenience of being self-propelled, and will be easier to use on a hill. Both wheeled and tracked options exist to match the machine to your type of terrain.

As you think about who will be using your snowblower, keep in mind features such as headlights, heated handgrips, and particularly electric start—this allows you to connect the snowblower to an electrical outlet to start it rather than having to pull a recoil starter cord, making starting the machine a snap.

Ready to buy?

Keep these tips in mind as you make an informed decision about what size, type, and features you're looking for in your new snowblower. Remember, matching the machine to both the conditions and the operators is key to getting the most out of your equipment. If possible, consider bringing all potential users of the snowblower into the store to “test drive” the machine for size, manoeuvrability, and features.

To learn more about our lineup of snowblowers from Honda Power Equipment, visit powerequipment.honda.ca/snowblowers or contact our nearest store. We stand behind our products and you can count on us to service what we sell.