



You braved the tough winter and just about tackled that last pile of snow standing between you, greener grass and warmer weather. Melting puddles and blue skies mean only one thing: it's time for the semi-annual 'changing of the guard,' from blower to mower. Soon you will retire your trusty snow blower to storage and begin preparing your lawn mower and your mentality for hotter days and longer grass. Whether you have a push lawn mower or riding mower, performing a few basic tasks to bring your machine back to life means optimal performance throughout the summer months. And as for your Sno-Thro, give it a good checkup and a much-needed six-month break to recharge for some more winter fun next year.

Use this checklist to help properly store your snow blower and prep your lawn mower, ensuring that your equipment stays tougher than the elements.

GOOD BYE BLOWER...

- Add Stabilizer to the Remaining Gas in Your Snow Blower.**
Most engine manufacturers recommend using a fuel stabilizer or draining the fuel system before putting the machine into storage (Ariens recommends part # 04730300). Mix the gasoline according to the instructions on the stabilizer container. Fill the machine's gas tank about full (using low ethanol gasoline) and allow the machine to run for a few minutes to make sure stabilized gasoline is in the carburetor as well as the tank. If equipped, turn the fuel valve to the off position.
- Clean the Unit and Undercarriage**
Clean your snow blower: wipe off the top of the unit and check the belt(s) and idler pulleys for wear. Check all your parts, as now is a great time to replace or adjust your Sno-Thro parts. **Remove the ignition key and/or the spark plug wire before working on your snow blower!**
- Annual Tune Up**
(Optional - either now or in Fall) if you opt for a snow blower tune up before storage, go ahead and change the spark plugs, and check your tire pressure and grease fittings. Doing this at least once every year will help your unit run smoother and burn fuel efficiently.
- Change the Oil**
Change the oil and filter if equipped. Replace with the engine manufacturer's recommended oil and filter type. Please refer to the engine manual that came with your unit. Some of the Ariens [owner's manuals](#) also have these recommendations. You can also find recommendations on most engine manufacturers web sites: [Briggs & Stratton](#), [Honda](#), [Kawasaki](#), [Kohler](#), [LCT](#), [Robin/Subaru](#).
- Storing Your Snow Blower**
Let your Sno-Thro hibernate for the summer in a cool, dry place.

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...HELLO MOWER

- Take your Lawn Mower Out of Storage**

With another snow season successfully under your belt, it's time to welcome the warmer weather and bring your Ariens mower back to the front of the garage where it belongs.
- Drain any untreated Fuel Still Sitting in Your Mower**

When a gasoline engine is stored for an extended period, it may not start easily. There are several reasons why this could happen, but the most common is that the untreated gasoline in the carburetor has evaporated away leaving a varnish-like residue that is preventing the flow of fuel. If this happens, it's necessary to disassemble the carburetor and clean it thoroughly. Ariens Company suggests this is done by an [Ariens dealer](#).
- Check Tire Pressure**

Check the pressure of your lawn mower's tires and adjust as needed to the pressure listed on the tire sidewall.
- Check Engine Crankcase Oil**

Top it off with clean engine oil. Ariens recommends the use of high-quality automotive 10W30 motor oil in the four-cycle engine of your Ariens mower. Refer to the engine manufacturer's manual for oil fill capacity; the capacity will almost always be less than one quart. Some Ariens lawn mowers have a Tecumseh two-cycle engine that requires mixing oil with the gas. Ariens recommends using high quality, 2-cycle oil mixed with fuel at a ratio of 50:1. (2 1/2 oz. of oil for 1 gallon of gasoline.)

- Fill Engine Fuel Tank**

Fill your fuel tank. Do not use gas with more than 10% ethanol (E10). Higher ethanol fuel is dangerous to use in any small engine equipment. For more information check out [OPEI's Ethanol Fact Sheets](#).
- Tighten the Bolts and Check Your Blades**

After changing oil and finishing the visual inspection, check and make sure all nuts and bolts are tight on your machine. A lawn mower vibrates during use, which may cause parts to become loose over time. Tighten any loose nuts and bolts to ensure optimal operation. Check the blades, as now is a great time to replace or sharpen them. **Remove the ignition key and/or the spark plug wire before working under the mower deck!**
- Test**

Turn on your mower to make sure it's working and ready for the summer season.

