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Shopping for snowblowers can be difficult. The machines are long term investments so research is important before running out and purchasing one.

# Clear your way to a new snowblower

**JAMIE DOGGART**  
 Editor/QMI Agency

Winter is coming and you know that the snow in the driveway isn't going to shovel itself. So why not get a snowblower? But before you rush out to get one, there are some things that need to be considered.

Snowblowers typically come in three different sizes, single stage, dual stage and tractor

mounts so the first thing customers need to consider before buying a snowblower is the size of the driveway.

For Ottawa, Masood Yarmand of Yarmandtech and OttawaSnowBlowers.com, recommends a dual stage blower.

"It's ideal for Ottawa driveways and snow — especially that compacted snow left behind by the plow."

A single stage blower works great on the driveway but hesi-

tates with compacted snow.

Another important thing to know is that a bigger engine doesn't mean a better snowblower. Engines are proportionate to the size of the machine. A smaller machine will still get the job done, it just may take a couple more passes.

Once size is settled, Yarmand offers five must have features to take into consideration, such as durable steel construction, an electric starter, power steer-

ing, remote chute and deflector control, and heated handles.

A steel body goes a long way towards the longevity of the machine, while the other features make it easier to use. According to Yarmand, power steering really makes the machine user-friendly as it moves to "controlling rather than handling."

Yarmand says that the hand heaters are an excellent feature that we don't often think

of, it can warm the whole body through your hands.

"It's enough to give you a warm and fuzzy feeling."

Having a headlight is another feature often not thought about but if you're clearing snow in the early morning or in the evening, it's handy to have.

For more information and tutorials, visit [www.ottawasn timers.com](http://www.ottawasn timers.com).

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