

# Snowmobile Prep/Storage Tips

## Prepping Your Snowmobile

Before taking your snowmobile for that first run, here are some checks to ensure that everything is in working order. Always refer to the owner's manual for general maintenance, cleaning, and repairs.



## Do a Walk Around

Make sure to check all of the parts to make sure nothing is loose. Areas that show wear and tear include belts and idler wheels. If you own an older model be on the lookout for areas of stress, buckling, and cracking. A grease gun can be used to lubricate all the points listed in the manual, although be sure not to use an excessive amount of grease.

## Check Your Fluids

The main fluids that you should be concerned with when taking your snowmobile out of storage include your gas, injector oil (or motor oil level if it is a 4-stroke), brake fluid, and coolant. If you did not fill the gas tank with fresh gas and stabilizer at the end of last season, and there was gas left in your tank while it was stowed away, drain the remaining that is left before adding any fresh gas. It may have deteriorated over the down months and could potentially affect the performance of your snowmobile. If your brake fluid is low, top it off using the specified grade outlined on the master cylinder. Fresh coolant should be added as well.

## Check the Engine

Dirty carburetors are the main cause of engine failure after taking snowmobiles out of storage. Consider cleaning with carburetor cleaner along with basic tools. A few other areas that should be checked for damage include the throttle, oil cables, fan, and water pump belt.

## Check the Skis

If your snowmobile is equipped with steel skis, check for holes that may have worn in them. For plastic skis, look for gouges or cuts. Lastly, your runners should be straight. If they are bent, it is a quick repair in the shop or a vice can be used to straighten them.

## Clean the Snowmobile

Wash off any salt, dirt, leaves, or other debris that may be on your snowmobile. This can easily be done with a hose or bucket of water. Seats can be cleaned with upholstery cleaner. During this step, also check for any clothes or plugs that were used to block off the air intake and exhaust apertures.

## Storing Your Snowmobile

When you plan to store your Snowmobile during off months, it is important that you take a few extra precautions to ensure that your snowmobile is running well when you take it out next season. Following these simple steps will keep your snowmobile running at its best.



## Basic Storage Checklist

Basic maintenance should be performed on your snowmobile before storage to ensure optimal performance of your sled next season. Procedures can vary depending on the brand and model of your snowmobile, so you may want to have an experienced professional perform the service. At the very least refer to your owner's manual for instructions on maintaining your sled.

Here are a few important things to check off:

- Fill your tank with fresh gas and use fuel stabilizer. The best solution is to fill your fuel tank 95% full with fresh fuel, and add fuel stabilizer. Fuel stabilizer will keep your fuel fresh for up to 12 months. Make sure you read the directions carefully. Start the motor and let it run for 5 - 15

minutes to ensure that the stabilized fuel has been distributed to all points in the system, including fuel lines, filters, carburetors, etc. Note that draining gasoline does *not* prevent varnish formation in engines, since some fuel is always left behind. In addition, gaskets can dry out and cause leaks in the fall.

- Remove the spark plugs and spray with fogging oil, such as **Shipmate Fogging Oil**, into the engine as directed as well as on any exposed metal parts of the snowmobile. Make sure not to get oil on the brake pads, rotor, clutches, or belt. Do not use a solvent-type oil, such as penetrating oil, or other aerosol light oils.
- If you own a 4 stroke motor, change the crankcase oil and filter at this time. Moisture and acids in old oil will pit bearings and other engine parts while in storage, so you need to drain it.



First warm up the engine so more of the dirty oil will drain out and impurities will flush out more easily. Use Arctic Blue 4-Stroke Synthetic 4-Stroke Oil and a high quality filter as recommended by your engine's manufacturer.

- Remove or disconnect the battery (for those snowmobiles with electric starters). Removing the battery is essential to prolonging its life. Store the battery in a place where it can be charged periodically during the summer months.
- Plug the block the exhaust, air intake, and cooling holes to ensure no debris, mice or other rodents get in during storage.
- Drain the chain-case and refill with the recommended fluid.
- Leave a minimum amount of air pressure in the air shock (if snowmobile is equipped with one).
- Grease all grease fittings (zerk fittings) until grease comes out either near the base or at a relief valve.
- Inspect the Lube on the Drive Chain and lubricate if needed.
- Remove the drive belt
- Spray a dry lubricant on all track clips
- Wipe the seat with a lubricant



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## Store your Snowmobile in a Cool, Dry Place.

Wash your sled prior to storage to remove any salt, dirt, leaves, or other debris that may be on your snowmobile. Shield it from dust by using a porous, not plastic, cover. Plastic may trap moisture and water inside the cover. Store your sled in a dry place, preferably on a lift or dollies to prevent moisture corrosion. Although some owners choose to store their snowmobile professionally, this is not necessary.