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Snowed Under?

THE BEST TOOLS FOR CAMPUSES TO STAY AHEAD OF WINTER STORMS

BY BOBCAT COMPANY

Winter brings demanding conditions that can quickly slow down operations on many college campuses, or in some cases bring things to a screeching halt. Worse, it can cause hazardous conditions for campus residents and commuters. Now is the time to get ahead of the snow by evaluating your campus equipment, investing in the tools you need, and planning ahead to avoid problems before freezing temperatures arrive.

Compact track loaders and skid-steer loaders are especially valuable during snow season, thanks to their versatility and ability to pair with specialized attachments. Outfitting your machine with the proper tools not only ensures efficient snow clearing but also helps protect your bottom line by reducing downtime and maximizing job site efficiency.

Attachments that Make the Difference

Your choice of attachment is key to optimizing your fleet for winter conditions. Whether you're

blowing snow, pushing it aside, or clearing ice, here's a closer look at three essential attachments that can turn your compact loader into a winter workhorse.

Snowblower

A snowblower attachment transforms your loader into a powerful snow-clearing machine ideal for parking lots, driveways and sidewalks. Adjustable chutes direct snow exactly where you need it, reducing cleanup time while hydraulic controls allow for precise

operation. From light powder to packed drifts, a snowblower ensures quick and thorough results.

Snow Blade

The snow blade is a flexible solution for sidewalks, driveways, and parking lots. Operators can push snow straight ahead or angle the blade to clear more efficiently, depending on the site. Built with durable materials and strong cutting edges, snow blades stand up to heavy winter use. Fingertip controls allow for easy adjustments, giving operators precise handling in changing conditions.

Snow Pusher

For large, open areas, a snow pusher is one of the most efficient attachments available. Its

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wide design moves heavy, wet snow quickly without clogging, making it ideal for clearing parking lots and expansive paved spaces. Some models may include rubber cutting edges to protect surfaces and reduce wear, while the ability to move significant volumes of snow in fewer passes saves both time and fuel.

Six Steps to Stay Ahead of Snow Removal and Avoid Downtime

Attachments play a big role in productivity, but preparation is just as important. Following these steps before the first snowstorm hits ensures your machines and crew are ready to perform all winter long:

1. **Inspect equipment early.** Conduct a full inspection of machines and attachments in the fall to identify any maintenance needs before the season begins. Addressing small repairs ahead of time prevents costly downtime during peak snow events.
2. **Plan for parts.** Stock essential parts such as filters, fluids and wear items before winter. Relying on aftermarket parts can risk poor fit or performance, so having the right components on hand ensures smooth, uninterrupted operation.
3. **Choose the right machine.** Speed and efficiency matter in snow removal. Machines equipped with 2-Speed travel options, for example, reduce travel time between job sites and allow operators to complete more work in less time.
4. **Use a variety of attachments.** Different conditions call for different solutions. Pairing a snow blade with a snow bucket, or switching to a snow pusher during heavier storms, can make clearing faster and more effective. The ability to change attachments quickly is key to adapting as conditions shift.
5. **Consider transportation needs.** Compact loaders are easy to transport and maneuver in tighter areas such as sidewalks and narrow streets while still delivering the performance needed for larger jobs. Planning your hauling strategy can minimize trips and maximize efficiency.
6. **Prioritize operator comfort.** Winter work often means long hours in the cab. Features such as heated cabs, quieter interiors, and attachment systems that reduce the need to exit the machine can keep operators comfortable and productive through extended shifts.

Be Ready When the Snow Falls

Snow removal success depends on preparation as much as equipment. Equipping your compact loader with the right attachments and preparing in advance ensures fewer delays and helps you stay ready for whatever winter brings. Investing in the right tools, parts, and practices keeps your operations efficient, your team productive, and your customers satisfied all season long.

EQUIPMENT SPOTLIGHT: TOOLCAT™ UTILITY WORK MACHINES FROM BOBCAT

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pickup truck, Toolcat utility work machines are built to tackle everything from spring cleanup and summer landscaping to fall prep and winter snow removal.

One of the most significant advantages of the Toolcat utility work machines for campus environments is its superior maneuverability and minimal ground disturbance. The all-wheel steer feature allows for a remarkably tight turning radius, which is essential for navigating narrow pathways, between buildings and around intricate landscaping without damaging delicate turf. Coupled with hydraulic power steering, this provides grounds crews with nearly effortless control, allowing them to complete tasks efficiently while preserving the aesthetic appeal of the campus.

Beyond its core capabilities, the Toolcat's true power lies in its compatibility with over 45 attachments. This extensive range allows a single machine to perform a vast array of jobs year-round. For winter weather, you can use the snowblower to clear driveways and sidewalks, the spreader to minimize slippery surfaces with sand and salt, and the snow blade to plow through deep drifts. For other tasks, the angle broom can clear debris from paths, and the pallet fork can quickly move and place bulky materials. The Power Bob-Tach system makes swapping attachments quick and easy.

The design of the Toolcat also prioritizes the operator. The comfortable cab features improved ergonomics, a redesigned dash and an updated HVAC system that ensures operators can stay productive through both hot and cold weather. With a focus on visibility, the machine includes all-around sightlines and embedded lighting in the fenders for operating attachments in low-light conditions. The optional rearview camera further enhances rear visibility, helping operators maneuver in tight spaces and around people.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Bobcat Company is a member of the Doosan Group. Doosan is a global leader in construction, grounds maintenance and material handling equipment, power and water solutions, and engineering that has proudly served customers and communities for more than a century.

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