

Preparation of this newsletter was financed through LTAP, a nationwide effort financed jointly in Iowa by the FHWA and the Iowa DOT. Iowa's LTAP is housed and administered at ISU's Center for Transportation Research and Education (CTRE).

The mission of Iowa's LTAP: To foster a safe, efficient, environmentally sound transportation system by improving skills and knowledge of local transportation providers through training, technical assistance, and technology transfer, thus improving the quality of life for Iowans.

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Pre-season winter maintenance checklist for fleet managers

The following checklist can help you make sure your snow plows and other maintenance equipment are in good working order before the first storm hits.

Ground engaging components

Cutting edges and guards

- Inspect all cutting edges. Replace those that are broken or excessively worn.
- Inspect wear guards. Replace those that are broken or worn.

Running gear

- Inspect running gear shoes. Replace those that are broken, worn, or missing.
- Inspect adjuster leg components, and replace all that are damaged.
- Grease internal threads and sliding members.

Hardware

- Replace all missing or broken bolts. Use grade 8 plow bolts for steel cutting edges.

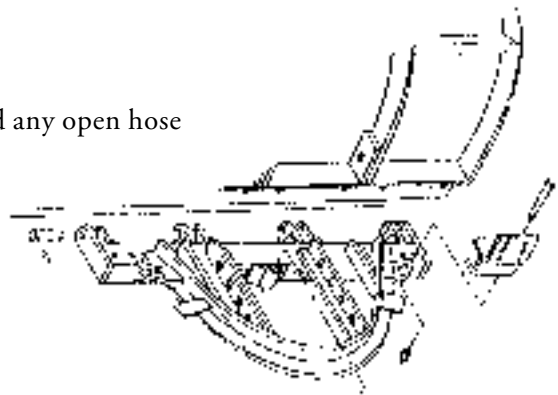
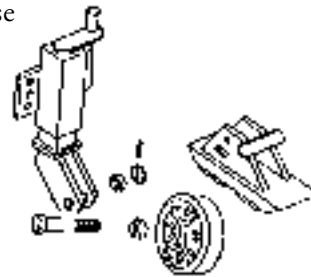
Hydraulics

Hoses

- Plug or cap any QC fittings and any open hose ends.
- Inspect hoses for any leaks or potential leaks. Replace as needed.
- Secure hoses with hose clamps.

Cylinders

- Check for leaks. (If v-rod end seals are leaking, try tightening the pack nut 1/4 turn. This method will often stop a small leak.)
- Inspect the cylinders for any chrome rod dents or scratches.
- Apply a light coat of oil or grease on the exposed rod surfaces.

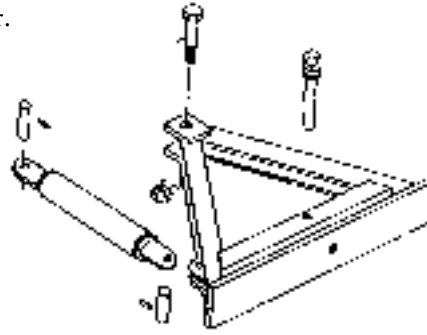


This checklist is adapted from information in the Henke Snowplow, Summer 2001. Graphics courtesy of the Henke Snowplow. Used with permission.

Frame and moldboard

Joints

- Check pins, bushings, and pivot bolts for wear.
- Make sure all keepers are in place.
- Make sure shear bolts and pins are the same grade as those originally in the equipment (usually grade 2 or grade 5). Although you may be tempted to replace these bolts with a grade 8 bolt to reduce the need for replacement when plowing, the original-grade bolts are designed to shear, protecting the driver and the equipment.

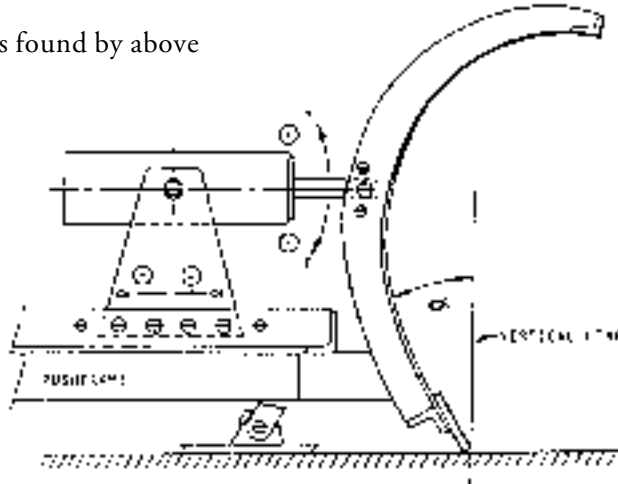


Weldments

- Check for cracks.

Setup

- Replace worn or broken parts found by above inspections.
- Position plow in storage/ parking space on a solid surface.
- Adjust running gear, if equipped, to hold plow frame at the level needed to reconnect to the truck. This adjustment will also properly set the running gear for plow operation.



Replacement stock

- Check your stores of replacement stock.
- Order replacement stock by mid-fall to avoid shortages when the first storm hits.

Visibility

- Check the visibility of your truck. (See article on the next page.)

LTAP Advisory Board

The people listed below help guide and direct the policies and activities of Iowa's Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP). Contact any of the advisory board members to comment, make suggestions, or ask questions about any aspect of LTAP.

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