

### Time to buy a snow thrower?

Recent cold weather and zero-range temps make owning a snow thrower very appealing. Maybe a holiday gift idea for the designated snow removal team in your household? If so, here are a few tips about snow throwers so you'll know the basics when you go shopping.



**Match the machine to the area.** You will need a:

- small, single-stage snow thrower if you have a single car garage, small area of walks and driveway
- medium-size, single-stage snow thrower if you have a two-car garage, moderate amount of walks
- large, two-stage snow thrower if you have a three-car garage, lots of sidewalk and/or a sloping driveway.

#### **Single-stage versus two-stage throwers:**

Single-stage throwers are light and easily maneuvered.

Rubber rotor paddles clear the snow down to the pavement and throw it out a shoot. They are self-propelled by the rotors. They are most effective on newly-fallen snow that is not compacted.

Two-stage throwers have a large horse-powered engine on a large frame. A steel auger chips away at hard-packed snow that gets thrown out of a shoot. They are wheel driven, have multiple speeds, including reverse and make quick work of a large job.

#### **Throwers have two kinds of engines**

**2-cycle engine:** Small, light engine with few moving parts that makes it easy to maintain. You will have to mix oil into the gas before putting it into the machine.

**4-cycle engine:** Stronger engine that develops good horsepower to move lots of snow. Oil and gas are separate like in a car. It's generally quieter when operating than the 2-cycle. Most commonly found on a 2-stage thrower.

**Features** - match them to the comfort zone of the operator

1873 S. Bellaire St.  
Suite 920  
Denver, CO 80222-4356  
tele. 303 757-5611  
fax 303 757-5636  
[www.alcc.com](http://www.alcc.com)

and the job:

- Shoot controls vary from a hand lever to joy stick or a crank.
- Special features like headlights and hand warmers on the grips are available depending on the model.
- Plastic non-stick surfaces are good because they don't tend to clog.
- For durability, look for a rigid, steel frame.

Need help with snow removal or other winter landscape chores? Go to [www.alcc.com](http://www.alcc.com) and click on *Find a Pro*.

*Technical information courtesy ALCC member firms. Photo courtesy Toro.*

