Add Stabilizer to the Remaining Gas in Your Lawn Mower.
Most engine manufacturers recommend using a fuel stabilizer or draining the fuel system before putting the machine into storage. If you use a fuel stabilizer, mix the gasoline according to the instructions on the stabilizer container. Fill the machine’s gas tank about 3/4 full (using low ethanol gasoline) and allow the machine to run for a few minutes to make sure stabilized gasoline is in the carburetor as well as the tank. If equipped, turn the fuel valve to the off position. Note: It’s okay to add fuel stabilizer to your gas can with each fill up.

Clean the Blades and Undercarriage
Clean the unit: wipe or blow off the clippings and debris from the top of the unit and check the belt(s) and idler pulleys for wear. Check the blades, as now is a great time to replace or sharpen the blades. Remove the ignition key and/or the spark plug wire before working under the mower deck!

Annual Tune Up
Tune ups can be done now or in the spring. If you opt for maintenance before storage, we recommend changing the spark plugs, oil, check tire pressure and grease fittings as well as changing the air filter if your machine is equipped with one. Tune ups at least once every year will help your unit run smoother and burn fuel efficiently.

Change the Oil
Change the oil and filter if equipped. Replace with the engine manufacturer’s recommended oil and filter type. Please refer to the engine manual that came with your unit. Some of the Ariens owner’s manuals also have these recommendations. You can also find recommendations on most engine manufacturers websites.

Storing Your Mower
Let your lawn mower hibernate for the winter in a cool, dry place.
...HELLO BLOWER

Take your Snow Blower Out of Storage
With another snow season underway (or fast approaching), it's time to move your Sno-Thro to the front of the garage where it belongs.

Drain any Old Fuel Still Sitting in Your Snow Blower
When a gasoline engine is stored for an extended period, it may not start easily. There are several reasons why this can happen, but the most common is gasoline in the carburetor has evaporated away leaving a varnish-like residue that is preventing the flow of fuel. If this happens, it is necessary to disassemble the carburetor and clean it. Using a quality fuel stabilizer can prevent this from happening.

Check Tire Pressure
Check the pressure of your snowblower's tires and adjust as needed to the pressure listed on the tire sidewall.

Check Auger Gear Case Oil
Over the years, Ariens has used several lubricants in auger gear cases including grease and gear oil. Modern auger gear cases on Sno-Thro and Sno-Tek models use synthetic gear oil. It is always best to check the owner's manual for a specific model to make sure the correct lubricant is being used. Here are some rules of thumb for checking auger gear case oil.

Check Engine Crankcase Oil
Top it off with clean, winter grade engine oil. Ariens recommends the use of a high-quality automotive 5W30 motor oil in the four-cycle engine of your Ariens Sno-Thro or Sno-Tek machine. Refer to the engine manufacturer's manual for oil fill capacity; the capacity will almost always be less than one quart. Some Ariens single stage snow throwers have a Tecumseh two-cycle engine that requires mixing oil with the gas. Ariens recommends using a high quality, 2-cycle oil mixed with fuel at a ratio of 50:1. (2 1/2 oz. of oil for 1 gallon of gasoline.)

Fill Engine Fuel Tank
Fill your fuel tank. Do not use gas with more than 10% ethanol (E10). Higher ethanol fuel is dangerous to use in any small engines.

Tighten the Bolts
After changing oil and finishing the visual inspection, check and make sure all nuts and bolts are tight on your machine. A snow blower vibrates during use, which may cause parts to become loose over time. Tighten any loose nuts and bolts to ensure optimal operation.

Adjust Belts and Cables
Check and adjust the belts and cables within your snow blower before running it for the first time each season. Consult your owner's manual for specific recommendations for your model.

Test
Turn on your snow blower to make sure it's working and ready for the first snow.