



## Fast Facts – Technology

Saskatchewan's Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure always seeks new technology and practices to make winter travel for motorists as safe as possible, while ensuring snow and ice are removed in the quickest and most efficient manner.

### State-of-the-art snowplow trucks

Here are just some of the features of the ministry's new and improved snowplows:

- ⊕ High-tech spreader control system automatically adjusts the amount of salt spread as snowplows speed up or slow down, which ensures a consistent and efficient application of material on the highway.
- ⊕ An infrared pavement temperature sensor displays road temperatures for the operators as they travel, which helps them decide how much salt and sand to apply.
- ⊕ Before sand or salt is spread on a road, it's treated with a solution to help it stick to the road so that it's less likely to blow off in high winds and become ineffective.
- ⊕ Traditional farm technology was applied to improve the box on the back of a snowplow truck that holds the salt and sand. Instead of a conveyor chain to move the material in the box, an auger was developed. Using this auger helps prevent corrosion in the box, because the auger is fully contained and doesn't allow sand or salt to be inadvertently deposited along the truck frame or other components, which means fewer repairs for corroded parts.
- ⊕ Snowplow trucks are dual purpose and can be used during summer highway construction to spread sand, haul gravel or help fill potholes, which reduces the number of vehicles the department needs overall.
- ⊕ Salt silos are strategically located near the ends of snowplow routes, which means operators don't have to travel all the way back to their maintenance depots to reload.