

All I really need to know about snow shovelling I learned from Small Business

(With apologies to Robert Fulgham)

While dealing with the first snow of the season recently I got to thinking how many business principles would apply to moving snow. With best wishes for the holiday season, here's my light-hearted list, which might even help with the next snowfall:

Location, location, location: having a driveway that faces the sun most of the day is at least half of the battle.

Any colour you like as long as it's black: asphalt is wonderful for capturing energy and melting snow. The blacker, the better!

Choose the right tool for the job: snow pushers work fast in light snow; snow shovels require more effort but are the only thing that works on heavy snow

Look after your tools and they will look after you: a quick spray of silicone lubricant, or WD40 will stop snow sticking to your shovel.

Don't let a small problem turn into a bigger one: clearing an inch of snow three times can be easier than doing it all at once. You get the "black" melting effect three times, and you can probably use pushers, not lifters.

Dress for success: success in this case is keeping the snow from drifting down your back and into your socks.

Know your competition and note their direction: don't pile your snow on the left of your driveway; the snow plough will pile it all back.

Plan ahead and avoid having to redo things: if you're moving snow to the right side, start shovelling on the left.

Smooth out the bumps as you go—avoid nasty surprises later: have you ever left a small piece of ice which

David Powell, the author, is owner and principal of Creekwood Digital Solutions, an Oakville-based home business in Ontario Canada.

He is semi-retired but accepts contracts to help finance his expensive hobbies and many snow shovels. David retired from a 33-year career in corporate IT and now specialises in developing database applications for Windows platforms, websites, and generally in improving business processes by simplifying, clarifying and beautifying all kinds of business documents.

His articles are regularly published in the Microsoft Small Business forum.

You can learn more about the work he does at www.creekwood.ca.

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partially melted and refroze as an immovable bump? You really don't want to hit one of those at full speed with a snow pusher—especially if the handle is in front of your body!

Automate when the payback exceeds the costs: a snow blower probably costs less than a full course of chiropractic sessions.

Know when to outsource: paying the neighbourhood kid is sometimes the best option!

And of course: **The customer is always right**—especially when the customer is your wife and she's telling you to get the snow off the drive so she can go out and shop for Christmas!