



## Facilitator — December 2012/January 2013



Change Language: Choose



Text Size A | A | A

*All translations are provided for your convenience by the Google Translate Tool. The publishers, authors, and digital providers of this publication are not responsible for any errors that may occur during the translation process. If you intend on relying upon the translation for any purpose other than your own casual enjoyment, you should have this publication professionally translated at your own expense.*

### Let it Snow

Kevin Dent

Hire an exterior service management company before the coldest months

Regions that normally receive snow are expected to endure colder forecasts for winter with above average snowfall this year. With forecast heavier snowfall in the northern regions, restaurant facility managers are relying on snow removal providers to barrel through ice and snow this winter.

Snow and ice conceal storefronts and impede the flow of traffic, but that is just half the problem. Minor and severe injuries are often caused by ice and snow. Teaming up with a 100-percent risk management snow and ice removal program will save you significant costs. The Right Thing to Do

Your business won't be delayed during inclement weather when you hire experienced exterior service operators who know how to manage all levels of snow and ice.

Don't be a property manager who neglects to arrange pre-season property assessment. Waiting to act until actual snowfall is too late. It's a mistake to think that restoring a facility to a pre-winter state is a quick and easy process. A seasoned snow and ice removal company can evaluate the property before winter weather strikes to determine where problematic areas exist on your property. Snow-and-ice-related injuries can be prevented with the right preparation and execution plan.

Your business can still reap the benefits of a beautiful winter setting, while maintaining a fully operational restaurant. Securing a plan for the most challenging season of the year can alleviate unnecessary liabilities.

#### Get Down to Work

Here is a plan of execution for dealing with snow and ice:

- 1) Plan to plan. As a facility manager or owner, you must consider your employees as well as your business.
- 2) Prepare a clean list, which is a list that is comprised of all of the facilities that you are responsible for.
- 3) Compile a detailed list of your property's exterior assets. Consider landscapes, turf areas, sidewalks, parking lots and exterior objects that may need maintenance. List the most-used entrances and exits of your facility. Those are the areas that will need to be tended to first once a pathway has been cleared.
- 4) Take photos. Taking photos of your exterior assets is very important in the inventory process and will significantly help with the snow and ice removal implementation plan.
- 5) Track weather conditions. The climate and weather are two different things. The climate is a forecast—sometimes accurate and sometimes not—but the weather is the current state of the temperature and atmosphere. By tracking the weather in advance, you can take the necessary preventative measures to ensure safety. Once the snow and ice descend, you'll be ready to pick up the pieces.

#### Winterizing Your Exterior

Once all safety measures have been implemented and a consistent schedule of daily maintenance is put into effect, you can start to relax. After dealing with the more perilous of winter problems, thinking about the appearance of your exterior should be next.

Many business owners are weatherizing their facilities to keep their customers warm and to save on variable and power expenses, but also think about winterizing the exterior of your property. Prior to the winter season, fertilize your planting beds and trees. Trim, groom and resist from using the irrigation system on any ornamental grass. Every time you trim the ornamental grass, it grows back faster than when you neglect it. Even in mild

winters, your ornamental grass can be the first to go if precautions are not taken. Reduce the shock of winter by cutting your grass to the base.

A professional exterior service management company can handle the pre-season preparations, after-storm restoration and the daily maintenance of winter. It is up to business owners to research and reserve an organized, cost-efficient and experienced ESM company. Though winter is the most taxing in terms of weather, all seasons should be treated with equal amounts of attention.

No matter the season, your business should always seem unaffected by winter woes or the unappealing effects of the season. Instead, plan on seasonally enhancing your business accordingly—not just on the inside, but on the outside, too.

[View All Articles](#)

---