



# Brushing Up

Newer innovation for fleet rooftop snow clearing expands contractor services

By Debora Babin Katz



*It takes less than a minute to clear snow from a tractor-trailer or bus with TrucBrush.*

For snow service contractors and municipal employees, manual clearing of snow from fleet rooftops is labour-intensive, time consuming, and poses serious safety risks. Enter the latest patented innovation for fleet rooftop snow clearing called TrucBrush®. This newer mobile broom attachment, powered by the hydraulics of a front-end loader, quickly, effectively and safely clears accumulated snow and icy debris from the rooftops of busses, flatbeds, intermodal containers, tractor-trailers, and box trucks.

“In the past, a snow contractor could only offer to manually clear snow from fleets, which is labour-intensive and a highly risky practice, and one that many insurance companies no longer insure for,” said Mark J. Aquilino, owner of Outdoor Pride Landscape & Snow Management.

Accumulated snow on the tops of any vehicle in transit is a significant safety concern and one that the trucking industry has been trying to address for years. “The size and weight of ice sheets that may dislodge from larger vehicles in transit create a more significant safety concern for the trucking industry. Operational impacts from accumulated snow and ice are also possible, including size and weight limit violations and lowered fuel economy,” according to the American Transportation Research Institute (ATRI).

## **Manually removing snow and ice from the tops of large vehicles creates a series of safety and operational challenges.**

Manually removing snow and ice from the tops of large vehicles creates a series of safety and operational challenges. Trailer/truck rooftops are extremely slippery surfaces, which combined with high elevations and adverse weather conditions, is dangerous for any person. In many cases, it can violate federal, state, or provincial worker safety guidelines.

“The tops of trailers are not designed to withstand the weight of a driver, or other personnel on top to clean the accumulated snow and ice,” said the ATRI. “The potential for slips, falls, and even death associated with individuals attempting to get to the tops of trailers covered in snow and ice to clean the trailer top far outweigh any potential benefits.”

Canadian efforts to address this safety issue mirror those in the U.S., though some aspects are more progressive than the States. Quebec, for example, has a regulation specifically prohibiting any vehicle operator from allowing snow and ice to fall from their vehicle.

Some contractors are utilizing TrucBrush to expand their service offerings at distribution centres. “I added TrucBrush at two of my clients’ distribution centres as a secondary service to my snow management contracts, which also replaced a fixed snow removal system at one location that had been an issue for my client,” said Dale DesMarais of DesMarais & Sons.

Aquilino’s company, Outdoor Pride Landscape & Snow Management, was able to differentiate itself from the competition in the bid process for a new airport freight terminal by offering TrucBrush Services. “We were awarded the contract and they are very pleased with how fast, effective and safe TrucBrush is.”

It takes less than a minute to clear snow from a tractor-trailer or bus with TrucBrush. The all-polypropylene-bristled attachment is safer on bus and truck rooftops.

“TrucBrush clears our intermodal containers with only a 34-second turn time per truck,” said Vinny Artese of Global Terminal.

Jarod Warsofsky, general manager of Boston Trailer, agrees. “TrucBrush is quick, easy, and very effective. Now we can effectively clear 20 to 30 trailers in the amount of time that it would take us to shovel one.”

TrucBrush Corporation sells and supports Fortune 500 companies and has been recognized for its innovation, including receiving the 2016 Snow Industry Commitment Award from the national Snow & Ice Management



Association (SIMA) for outstanding innovation and customer service. In Canada, TrucBrush is available through the company’s dealer network, including Caterpillar and Spectrum Equipment.

This newer attachment has set the stage for a new snow service offering from contractors in North America.

“We now have more opportunities with other facilities to expand our business due to TrucBrush,” said Aquilino.

For more information, visit them online at [TrucBrush.com](http://TrucBrush.com), or watch videos of TrucBrush in action at [www.trucbrush.com/media-gallery](http://www.trucbrush.com/media-gallery). •



**Grow your business with new snow service!**

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**See TrucBrush in action at the Western Canadian Snow & Ice Management Symposium  
September 14, 2018  
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 Watch videos of TrucBrush in action: [TrucBrush.com/media-gallery](http://TrucBrush.com/media-gallery)

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