

How to Properly Clean Your Switch

Always be sure to clean the entire switch, checking each and every component.



TAKING ON
WINTER

We're in this together.



Step 1: Clean the handle

Begin by removing debris and snow from both around and underneath the handle. Ensure that the handle can operate freely in both directions. Handle must have sufficient clearance underneath to fully engage the locking mechanism.

Step 2: Check the rods

Make sure they are clear and operable. Rods should be free of debris, snow and ice, which can inhibit movement. Always use a broomstick or similar device.



Step 3: Clear the switch points

The point includes the entire point of tapered rail from the point to the heel; this is a distance of about 10 ties, or 16 feet.



Sweep away any snow and debris from between the open switch point and the stock rail. Always use a broomstick or similar device to remove foreign material.



You may have to chip away any ice or snow that prevents the open switch point from closing rightly against the stock rail using the chisel end of the broom.



Don't forget:

- **NEVER** use your hands or feet to remove debris from between switch points.
- Once the switch is thrown, the switch point **MUST** be tight against the rail.
- Don't ever leave an open switch point unattended.
- Contact your supervisor immediately if the switch point will not close tight or if there are any defects.