

TsT Home Improvement Services LLC

Tip of the Month

By Tom S. Truesdale

Gutters Gutters Gutters

Most people only think of cleaning gutters in the Fall when leaves are falling but in fact keeping gutters clean year around is important for many reasons. Some trees such as Maple and Pine trees, shed seeds and needles all year round that can potentially clog gutters and downspouts.

Gutters are a critical part of your homes water control system. If gutters are not functioning properly many problems can be created.

- Overflowing water from clogged gutters can damage soffit and gutter boards.
- Ponding ground water from uncontrolled roof run off can migrate into your crawlspace or eventually damage foundations.
- Ice dams can be created during freezing temperatures, causing damage to the gutters themselves as well as soffit, gutter board and roof decking.
- Gutters which are not flowing correctly and creating ponding water within the gutter can eventually cause water damage and rot to your gutter board and soffit.

Gutter Guards are not always the answer - Pros and Cons

There are a large variety of gutter guards on the market today and just as large a range in pricing. The type of gutter guards should be carefully considered before installation. Depending on the type of trees and leaf shed gutter guards can still become clogged creating the same problems mentioned above after substantial investment in the incorrect type of guard. If a gutter is extremely inaccessible, 2nd or 3rd story, a guard is sometimes a good option. If your home is a single story with a relatively flat roof, gutter guards may be a wasted investment. Periodic cleaning by an able person is most likely the best solution. Always consider ladder safety when inspecting and cleaning gutters.

If you have questions as to if your gutters are functioning properly or if gutter guards are needed to protect your gutter system contact a qualified local contractor for a free inspection and opinion.



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