



HOME Rochester Homeowners Fall Newsletter

Question of the season: *Why is it recommended to clean out gutters and down spouts so often?*

Answer: *Gutters drain toward the bottom exterior of your home and they serve to control the flow of water to protect your roof, walls and foundation. Gutters protect against wood rot; they keep your home dry and take water away from the foundation. If your gutters are not working properly or aren't clear, water can leak into your home and cause damage. Removing leaves and debris from gutters will eliminate clogging and will keep water free flowing. Gutter clogging is especially an issue in Fall when leaves are falling and in Spring when trees are producing seeds.*

Cleaning gutters on a regular basis is a great homeowner preventive maintenance tool

Fall Maintenance Checklist

- **Gutter clean out-** Thoroughly clean out leaves and debris from gutters. Repair sagging or loose gutters. Check joints and seams for leaks. Make sure that downspouts are clear and are pointed away from the house.
- **Leaves, lawn clean up-** Maintain your lawn and rake leaves. Check your property for loose branches or limbs. Prune branches away from your home. Check with the City of Rochester to find out when lawn debris is picked up.
- **Windows, caulking, leaks-** To prepare for cooler fall weather, inspect weather stripping around windows and replace if necessary. Check for cracked or broken windows. A tight seal is the first line of defense against air and water. Clean window screens.
- **Furnace and sump pump** - Change your air furnace filter, a new filter will help your furnace run more efficiently. Do a check of your furnace and your sump pump for proper function before cooler weather sets in.
- **Dryer vent and house fans-** Clean out your lint trap each cycle. Unplug your dryer and clean your dryer vent and hose monthly. Your vent is found at the back of the dryer. Check for proper functioning of your kitchen exhaust and bathroom fans; clean filters. Exhaust fans rid the room air of excess moisture, humidity, odors and pollutants.
- **Leaks in/out-faucets-** Check under the kitchen and bathroom sinks to make sure connections on pipes and hoses are properly sealed. Look for wetness around the dishwasher that could signal an existing or potential problem. Check your washing machine hoses for cracks, bulges or dampness. Also check hot water heaters, which may show signs of corrosion and leaks.
- **Exterior home inspection-** It's good to do a walk-around of your property. Remove hoses from spigots and drain them; store them indoors coiled and flat until next spring.
- **Roof-** Check for inconsistencies on your roof including cracked or missing shingles and nail-pops.
- **Smoke Detectors and CO Alarms-** Replace batteries in your smoke detectors and check for proper functioning of CO alarms. Have a working fire extinguisher on hand.

You may want to enlist a professional to assist with some of these tasks.

Our mission is to send out tips for seasonal home maintenance to assist you with successful homeownership

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This content is available in Spanish upon request.