October Tip of The Month

Cleaning Out Your Rain Gutters

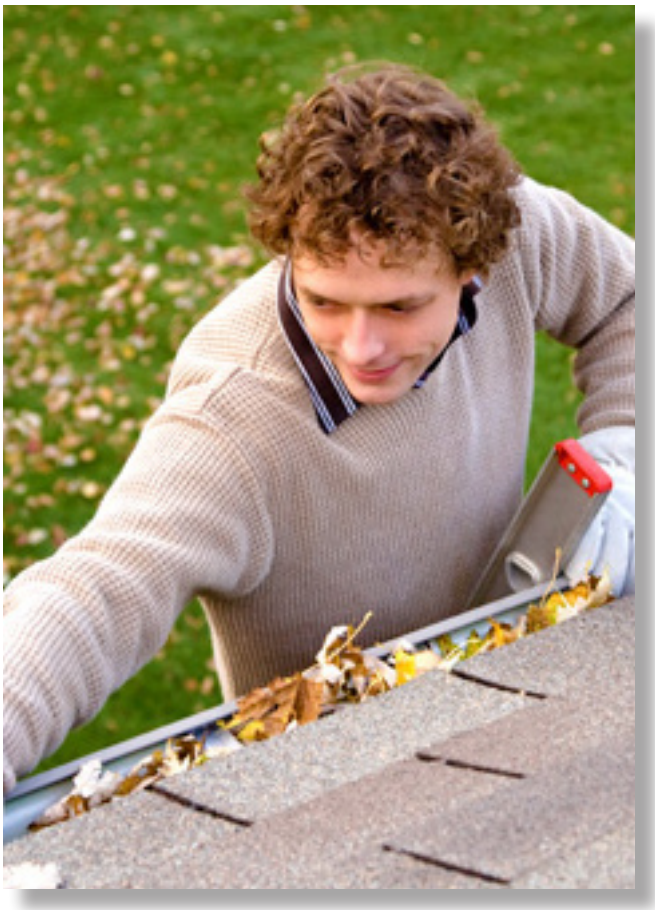
Cleaning is necessary for the gutter to function properly. During a rainstorm, gutters route runoff from a very large surface—a home's roof—to where it can drain away from the house. By doing so, they protect siding, windows, doors, and foundations from water damage and help prevent flooding in basements.

To Clean Gutters:

1. Scoop out loose debris - Starting at a drain outlet at the low end of a gutter, use a narrow garden trowel to scoop out loose debris, working away from the drain outlet. It's usually easiest to do this when the debris is slightly damp and pliable, not soggy or dried and encrusted. To minimize cleanup later, you can scoop the debris into a plastic garbage can liner.

2. Blast out the gutters with a hose - Using an on-off high-pressure nozzle mounted at the end of a water hose, wash out each length of gutter, working toward the drain outlet. This can be a messy job; try to avoid splattering mud all over your house. If necessary, use a stiff scrub brush to break loose encrusted dirt.

3. Clear obstructions in drainpipes - If water doesn't drain freely through drainpipes, try flushing debris down them with the hose. If that doesn't work, use a plumber's auger (snake) to free and pull out debris from the bottom.



Caution!

Anytime you work on ladders, it is important to follow all safely instructions. Stand on the ladder with your hips between the rails, and don't lean out over the sides. Never stand on the top two rungs.

For more information visit www.kitsapdem.org

KCDEM
Kitsap County Department of Emergency Management