

GUTTER CLEANING SAFETY

Teetering on a telescoping ladder while trying to scoop leaves out of a gutter isn't the safest way to get the job done.

If you have to climb a ladder to clean the gutters, don't use a stepladder, which is prone to tipping. Instead, use a sturdy extension ladder and have someone stand at the base to stabilize the ladder.

For all homes over a single story, it's best to hire a gutter-cleaning service to do the work for you. They will have the proper equipment to access high gutters safely.

Don't attempt to climb on your roof to clean gutters—it's not worth the risk.

KNOW CLEANING SAFETY:

- HOW TO CLEAN GUTTERS FROM GROUND
- HOW TO CLEAN GUTTERS USING A LADDER
- LADDER CAUTION



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GUTTER CLEANING SAFETY



HOW TO CLEAN GUTTERS FROM THE GROUND

Cleaning gutters from the ground is effective and is the safest method. Proceeding slowly and systematically is important as the gutters will likely not be visible from that perspective. It will take longer than it would if you were using a ladder but it is much safer.

The most common ways to clean gutters from the ground is using either a garden hose or a shop-type wet/dry vacuum using the attachments. The following is the best gutter-cleaning techniques for those who prefer to work with their feet planted firmly on the ground.

- Use a garden hose attached to a telescopic pole or use a shop vac equipped with the hoses and curved attachments that can help reach the gutters from ground level.
- Start at the end nearest the downspout, spray out the entire channel length and then work your way back to the downspout. Water, leaves and small twigs are likely to spray over the sides of the gutter, so dress appropriately and use eye protection.

HOW TO CLEAN GUTTERS WHILE STANDING ON A LADDER

- Using on a ladder to clean gutters is can be hazardous as there is a risk of falling. To reduce the risk, it's essential to use the right ladder. Avoid using a step ladder which can tip over.
- Use a sturdy extension ladder fitted with stabilizer arms. The arms brace the ladder against the siding and keep it from slipping to the side. It's also a good idea to have someone on the ground to hold the ladder and hand up tools as you need them.

DO NOT OVERREACH FROM THE LADDER

Your body acts as the ladder's center of gravity when working on a ladder. The centre of gravity is optimal when you keep your body centered between the ladder's side rails. Even a slight overreach can shift the centre of gravity and cause the ladder to tip over.

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