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Keep Your Gutters Flowing Free This Fall

by *homewarranty.com*

"Out of sight, out of mind" applies to most homeowners when contemplating gutter maintenance. However, to keep them flowing free, your gutters should be cleaned twice a year.

Clogged gutters can cause all sorts of seasonal calamities such as:

Loose or fallen gutters - Leaves and other debris from trees can add a lot of weight after piling up for weeks in your gutter. This may cause your gutters to collapse.

Rotting and discolored gutters - Sitting water spills and mildew can cause damage to your gutters over time.

Cracked foundation - Water which is not being properly routed from your roof can lead to pooling water around your house, which in turn may seep into your home's foundation and cause cracks.

Ice-damming - Ice dams in your gutters can prevent water from flowing, which may lead to water being re-routed into your home. Ice dams will also put excessive weight on your gutters which may pull them loose.

We've gathered a few tips to help you get your gutters back in action, and to keep you safe while you clean them.

Cleaning your gutters - Most methods include climbing a ladder, so if you have gutters above the first story of your house, it's best to hire a professional. We highly recommend cleaning your gutters from a sturdy, stable ladder rather than cleaning them from your roof.

It's important that you take the proper safety precautions when cleaning your gutters.

Watch out for power lines and make sure there aren't any cables on your roof. If there is a damaged cable, call a licensed professional to come and fix it.

What you will need:

- A sturdy ladder
- Buckets for collecting gutter debris
- A gutter scoop
- A scrubbing brush
- Dust mask and safety goggles
- Gloves (sturdy suede works best)
- Garden hose

While standing on your ladder, scoop out the leaves and debris from your gutters and place them into a bucket. Next, use a garden hose to wash out the gutters toward the drain outlet. If there is dirt stuck to your gutters, use a scrubbing brush to remove it.

Flush any leftover debris down the drainpipes using a garden hose. If the pipes are clogged and preventing water from draining, you may need to use a plumber's auger (snake).

Check for leaks - While you're running water through your gutters, remember to take the time to check for leaks. Look for holes in the pipes and cracks in the caulking.

Also, check for leaks after it rains. Use a waterproof marker to note the problem areas so that you can repair them once it dries. Gutter caps or screens are an option, but keep in mind you will still need to clean your gutters - perhaps less often, but at a greater cost to you due to the labor required.

October Calendar

October 10 - Columbus Day

October 17 - Boss's Day

October 17 - National Pasta Day

October 31 - Halloween

October is National Kitchen and Bath Month

Homeowner Tip



Is Your Sump Pump Ready to Work?

The average lifespan of a sump pump is about ten years. Its primary purpose is to move water from your basement to the outside, but is your sump pump ready to work? It's important to run a test on your sump pump during dry periods by dumping a bucket of water in the sump pit. If the pump does not turn on or clear out the water, a repair or replacement may be needed. Make sure your pump is ready to work before you need it.

October is National Kitchen and Bath Month

With the holidays quickly approaching, many home are busy with remodels and renovation. So whether you're going to DIY it or hire a contractor, here are a few things to consider:

Smart Toilets - Don't knock it until you've tried it. Smart toilets feature seat warmers set to your preference, automatic "hands-free" lids, and nightlights if nature calls in the middle of the night.

Counter Tops and Vanities - The choices for counter tops and vanities are so plentiful it can easily feel overwhelming to

homeowners. Experts suggest starting with a surface that best fits your lifestyle. Here are features of two popular choices.

Granite - Granite is the real deal. It is the most durable of natural surface material, naturally beautiful, unique, and is able to hold its value for decades.

Quartz - Quartz's most popular attribute is its ability to be resist bacteria. It is not 100% pure stone which results in a non-porous surface, making it an ideal choice for bathrooms and showers.



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Celebrate National Pasta Day with an Easy Lemon Pasta

INGREDIENTS

- 3/4 pound linguine
- 2 garlic cloves
- Juice and zest of 1 lemon
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- Small bunch of fresh parsley
- Extra virgin olive oil
- Pinch of salt

DIRECTIONS

1. In a pan, drizzle extra virgin olive oil and add garlic cloves.
2. Add the juice of 1 lemon and let everything simmer for a couple of minutes, stirring occasionally.

3. Add heavy cream, the zest of 1 lemon and a small bunch of fresh parsley, previously chopped. Let everything simmer a couple more minutes over a low flame. Season with a pinch of salt and remove garlic cloves.

4. In the meantime, boil the linguine until al dente, then add it to the sauce.

5. Toss well over the heat to combine all the flavors together, along with a couple of spoons of pasta water to moisten the pasta.

6. Serve with a drizzle of extra virgin olive oil on top and some chopped parsley.



*Recipe courtesy of: Angelo Coassin
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