



One Day ACTIVITIES

Getting Gutters Hurricane-Ready

Your gutters are there to direct rainfall away from your home and prevent flooding. This only works if your gutters are free of debris and in good shape. Take the day to clear out leaves or any other debris. While you're up there make sure you don't have any rusted out spots, holes or openings.

Step One: Assemble Your Tools and Hardware.

What you will need for this project:

- Ladder
- Bucket with metal hook
- Garden hose
- Rags or paper towels
- Waterproof gloves
- Gutter Scoop

Directions:

- Wear gloves to protect yourself from scratches, and have handy a garden trowel or gutter scoop, a whisk broom and a rag. Put your tools in a bucket with a handle. The bucket should be fastened to your ladder with a wire hook.
- Start cleaning a stretch of gutter at the downspout area. This is where debris usually collects, blocking the water's path to the downspout. Work your way up the gutter, putting the collected debris into a bucket.
- After you are done cleaning, you may want to flush your gutters with a garden hose. This will show how well the gutters are draining and will indicate any areas that are holding standing water, which contributes to many gutter problems.
- You can decrease the amount of debris that collects in your gutters by installing protective gutter guards or protective screens.



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Considerations:

- Gutters should be cleaned at least twice a year, preferably in spring and fall. If you can only squeeze in a single cleaning, do it after the leaves stop dropping in the fall.
- Safety is the number one thing to be aware of when working with your gutters. Do not attempt to clean or repair your gutters from on top of your roof. If you live in a single-story house, clean your gutters while standing firmly on a sturdy stepladder. The ladder must be tall enough to get you up to where you need to be without having to stand on the top two steps.
- Dry, loose leaves and small twigs can be removed with a handheld blower. Some blower manufacturers offer attachments especially for the purpose. Using your hands works well too.
- Inspect your gutters as you clean. Look for corrosion, holes, leaking joints or loose, missing or bent hangers. Mark problem areas with masking tape so you can find the problem spots quickly when you are ready to do the repairs.