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Do You Need Gutter Guards? The Pros and Cons

Gutters that work efficiently are essential to protecting the foundation of your home. Gutters are designed to redirect water to downspouts that carry the water to a suitable drainage location, well away from your foundation. But gutters need regular maintenance to work effectively and can be difficult to access and hard to keep free of leaves and debris.

Enter gutter guards, created to alleviate the problem of clogged gutters. But do gutter guards really work? And does your particular home need them and are they worth the expense?

Long story short, if you live in a warm area with a roof free of falling leaves and debris, you most likely don't need the added protection of gutter guards. However, if your home is surrounded by trees that drop leaves and debris on your roof, and you live in a climate with snow and ice, gutter guards will help keep your gutters free of debris and ice dams. After all, gutters cause more harm than good if they are regularly clogged with debris and ice.

There are five types of gutter guards to consider: (1) Brush

guards; (2) Foam Guards; (3) Mesh Guards; (4) Reverse-Curve Guards; and (5) Screen Guards. In short, a Reverse-Curve gutter guard is the best option on the market, but it's also the most expensive and requires professional installation.

Screen Gutter Guards are the most commonly used and are relatively easy to install. These gutter guards can be made of perforated metal or plastic, but generally resemble mesh or fencing. They sit on top of the gutters and prevent most large debris from entering, though screen gutter guards are not effective against pine needles, grass, and other small debris.

Even with gutter guards in place, there is no set-it-and-forget-it when it comes to gutters. Regardless of which option you choose, even gutters with gutter guards still require regular maintenance and should be cleaned and inspected at least once a year.

However you decide to deal with your gutters, the most important thing is to make sure your gutters are clean and free of debris as the winter season approaches. The best time to clean gutters is in the late fall, after the trees surrounding your home have shed their leaves.

October Calendar

October 13 - Columbus Day

October 16 - Boss's Day

October 31 - Halloween

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Homeowner Tips



Do You Need a Sump Pump?

A sump pump protects your home in case of flooding and is typically installed in basements, cellars and crawl spaces to keep those areas dry. There are a variety of sump pumps on the market, each designed to operate in different areas and conditions. You should consider a sump pump if your home is prone to flooding and/or exposed to severe storms. Sump pumps are typically installed by professionals, so be sure to consult with one before making a decision.

15 Indoor Home Projects You Can Plan for Now

With winter weather right around the corner, it's a good time to set your sights on home upgrades you can do indoors, especially if you're thinking of selling come spring. Following is a handy reminder list:

- 1 - Insulate your attic and crawlspace
- 2 - Seal cracks and gaps around windows and doors.
- 3 - Install a kitchen backsplash
- 4 - Lay hardwood flooring
- 5 - Touch up or replace paint on indoor walls
- 6 - Update light fixtures
- 7 - Organize and update laundry room
- 8 - Replace kitchen counter tops
- 9 - Reface kitchen cabinets
- 10 - Install a programmable thermostat to regulate temperature on a schedule
- 11 - Create a home office (very popular with today's buyers)
- 12 - Replace old or worn carpeting
- 13 - Declutter and freshen your interior design
- 14 - Upgrade faucets
- 15 - RegROUT or replace shower tiles



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Rosemary Roasted Butternut Squash Pizza

INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 pound pizza dough
- 2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 1/2 med. butternut squash, sliced
- 1 1/2 tablespoons mix of rosemary + your favorite Italian herbs
- 1 teaspoon honey
- 1 pinch red pepper flakes (optional)
- 1/3 cup basil pesto
- 3 slices crispy bacon, crumbled
- 1 cup shredded whole milk mozzarella
- 1 cup shredded fontina cheese
- 1/2 cup grated parmesan

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 425°F. Place dough on oiled sheet pan, press into place. Cover. Toss together remainder of ingredients (except cheeses and pesto) and spread on a sheet pan. Roast for 20 minutes or until squash is tender, remove from oven. Increase heat to 500°F. Spread pesto onto pizza dough, then layer remainder of ingredients plus the cheeses and place the pizza in the oven for 10-15 more minutes, rotating if necessary. Top with fresh basil. Enjoy! (Serves 1 - 2 people.)

(Recipe courtesy The Pampered Chef)

