

Seasonal Roof & Gutter Cleaning Checklist

roofscour.com

Tick each item as you complete it. Download the latest version at roofscour.com/seasonal-roof-gutter-cleaning-checklist/

CLEANING FREQUENCY QUICK REFERENCE

Your situation	Roof cleaning	Gutter cleaning
No trees, dry / arid climate	Every 2–3 years	Once a year
Few trees, temperate climate	Once a year	Twice a year
Heavy deciduous trees	Once a year	3x a year
Pine / evergreen trees	Once a year	4x a year
Humid climate (FL, Gulf, SE)	Twice a year	3–4x a year
Cold / continental (Midwest, NE)	Once a year	Twice a year
Cedar shake roof	Twice a year	Twice a year
Micro-mesh gutter guards installed	—	Once a year (flush)

Spring

HIGH PRIORITY

Spring is the most important clean of the year — clear all winter debris before heavy spring rainfall arrives.

TIP

ROOF

- Clear all winter debris and seed pods
- Inspect flashings for freeze-thaw damage
Chimney, pipe boots, valleys, ridge
- Annual soft wash to remove algae and moss
- Apply biocide treatment in humid climates
Prevents summer regrowth
- Check for granule loss in gutters
Indicates aging shingles

GUTTERS

- Clear all debris from gutter channel
- Flush downspouts and confirm they drain freely
- Check brackets and joints for winter freeze damage
- Inspect fasciaboards for moisture staining
Sign of winter overflow
- Trim overhanging branches before summer growth

Summer

LOW PRIORITY

Check gutters after any major storm or high-wind event regardless of your regular schedule.

TIP

ROOF

- Second soft wash for humid climates in August
Before wet season begins
- Check flat roof drains after summer thunderstorms
- Inspect painted metal surfaces for fading

GUTTERS

- Mid-summer check for heavy tree or pine coverage
- Clear seed pods from cottonwood and sweet gum
- Inspect for insect or bird nesting in blocked sections
- Check after any major storm or high-wind event

Autumn

CRITICAL

September — November

TIMING MATTERS: Clean late October to mid-November — AFTER peak leaf fall, not before. Cleaning in September misses the majority of leaves.

TIP

ROOF

- Inspect roof for accumulated debris
Clear before it holds moisture all winter
- Apply moss preventative before wet season
- Check all flashings and sealant before freeze
- Inspect pipeboots for cracking
Rubber degrades after 10–15 years

GUTTERS

- Full clear AFTER peak leaf fall
The most important clean of the year
- Flush all downspouts and verify discharge points
- Inspect and re-seal any open joints before freeze
- Confirm downspouts discharge 6+ ft from foundation
- Check for sagging sections under debris weight

Winter

MONITOR ONLY

December — February

WARNING Do NOT clean gutters or roofs in freezing conditions. Monitor from ground level only — ice on ladders causes serious falls.

WATCH FOR FROM GROUND LEVEL

- Icicles forming at the gutter line after snowfall
Indicates blockage or poor attic ventilation
- Ice damming at the eaves
Heat loss from attic — ventilation issue
- Gutters pulling away from fascia under ice weight
- Water staining on exterior walls below gutters
Sign of repeated overflow
- Basement dampness or water ingress after thaw
Check downspout discharge points

WARNING SIGNS — CLEAN NOW REGARDLESS OF SCHEDULE

- Water overflowing gutters during rain
Not from downspout — gutter is blocked
- Gutters sagging or pulling from fascia
Weight of debris causing structural damage
- Plants growing from gutter channel
Major blockage — organic growth established
- Black streaks or green patches on roof
Algae or moss degrading shingles
- Dark staining on walls or ceilings
Active leak — call a professional now
- Granules in gutters after every rain
Shingles aging faster than expected
- Basement dampness after rainfall
Check downspout discharge points immediately
- Visible nesting material in gutters
Birds or insects nesting in blocked section

Professional cleaning costs

Roof:
\$150–\$400

Gutters:
\$100–\$250

Both:
\$250–\$650

Use cost calculator at [roofscour.com](https://www.roofscour.com)