

CLEAN THE GUTTERS

Rain gutters are a great thing to have on your house. But they do require a little maintenance once in a while.

Usually once a year they will need to be cleaned out to ensure there are no blockages. This is pretty easy for me being an eagle. I recommend you use a ladder.

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EARN THIS NUGGET

Clean out those gutters under the watchful eye of your parents. Wait for a good rainy day so you can proudly watch the fruit of your labor at work.

LEVEL 1

B-8

- Safety first. Have your parents ensure the ladder is safe and set up correctly. Falling from a ladder is no joke. There may be some areas of the house that are too high and simply not something you should even consider trying to do.

- Pick your time for cleaning. If it has been dry for a few days, the job will be easier as the debris will be lighter and a lot less messy.

- First, you will clean out the large debris. These will be leaves and sticks that have become lodged in there. Hang a bucket on the side of the ladder to gather this debris so it does not get scattered on the ground below. Use a trowel to shovel out the smaller pieces.

- The drain pipes should have strainers in them to prevent debris from clogging them. If present, you'll want to remove these and clean them out.

- Finally, a hose can be used to blast out the remaining sludge. Make sure you are stable on that ladder before even considering using a hose. You can also get a wand attachment for hose that allows you to do this from the ground.

Well, it's not rocket science, but it is a bit of a chore. Having good functioning gutters helps prolong the life of the house, preventing damage to the roof and the fascia.

