

Environmental Health and Safety

October 15, 2013



Eco-Friendly Moss Removal



Fall is an excellent time to prep your house and perform minor repairs before the wet northwest winter weather arrives. When cleaning harmful/ structural damage causing moss, algae, lichen and fungi from north facing roofs and gutters, try some of these environmentally sound alternatives to chemical roof treatments.

- Trim overhanging branches to provide more direct sunlight to the affected area and prevent moss growth
- Remove debris such as pine needles and leaves and twigs from roof and gutters
- Power wash roof surfaces or scrub with hot water (being mindful not to damage the underlying surface)
- Try organic cleaners like biodegradable soaps, tea tree oil vinegar and borax or...
- Find a retailer that offers environmentally friendly cleaning products and services

Many commercial cleaning services offer chemical free cleaning if you would rather skip the elbow grease. For more info on these services, visit:

www.oregonroofcleaningservices.com

www.enviro-roofrestoration.com

Safe Chemical Use and Storage

If you choose to use chemical cleaners, be aware of safety risks and storage disposal guidelines.

Rules of thumb for safe chemical handling:

- Read the label and follow the directions.
- Wear gloves and protective clothing if product is harmful when in contact with the skin.
- Wear goggles if product can harm the eyes.
- Do not wear contact lenses when working with solvents.
- Stop using the product if you become dizzy, sick to your stomach, or develop a headache.
- Ensure proper ventilation, it is best to use chemicals outdoors with wind going away from you.
- Do not smoke when using flammable products.
- Never mix household products. Toxic fumes or explosions may result.
- Store compatible products together.
- See your health care provider immediately if you suspect you have been poisoned or injured due to an exposure to a household chemical.

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/ehs/toxic/HouseholdChemicals.aspx>

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Poison Control Centers of America (AAPCC)

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