

# Be safe when you clean out those gutters

Every fall, homeowners lug out their ladders to remove a season's worth of leaves, pine needles and debris from their rain gutters.

According to a report prepared by Rincón Industries, one person dies every day as the result of a ladder fall; ten thousand more check into emergency rooms with disabling injuries.

Studies show that most of these accidents occur because proper safety precautions were not followed. "Ladders are so commonplace," says Paul Zondlak of Rincón Industries, "that most people don't even realize the hazards involved, let alone receive any training in safety precautions."

How serious is the potential for falls? Serious enough that the Department of Consumer and

Industry Services has expanded their all protection rules. According to a 64-page booklet produced by the Construction Safety Standards Commission, all employers must provide a guardrail system, safety net, or harness for any employee working 6 feet above a lower level.

In addition, employers are required to provide training for every employee who might be exposed to fall hazards. This includes training in recognizing hazards, and training in the procedures required to minimize these hazards.

Hazard reduction involves training in the nature of hazards; correct procedures for erecting, maintaining, disassembling, and inspecting fall protection systems; use and operation of guardrail systems, personal

fall arrest systems, safety net systems, warning line systems, safety monitoring systems, controlled access zones, and other protection to be used; and the limitations on the use of mechanical equipment.

What does this mean to the average homeowner? Zondlak suggests that if professionals require such extensive training and precautions, it only makes sense that the average homeowner treat the issue of safety seriously. He recommends that you play it safe and hire a professional to clean out those gutters.

"It's a dirty, time-consuming job, anyway. But if you need to do it, learn and use ladder safety guidelines."

For homeowners who clean their own gutters, Zondlak offers

the following advice.

- Wear leather gloves to help protect yourself from injury or disease caused by rotting debris, insects and rodents.

- Wear protective clothing and rubber-soled shoes.

- Barricade traffic areas in your work site—lock, barricade or guard doorways in which a ladder is placed.

- Use the right ladder. It should be strong, heavy-duty, and tall enough to allow you to work at waist height. There should be some type of slippage prevention.

- Inspect the ladder prior to EVERY use. The ladder should be structurally sound and free of oil, grease, or other hazards.

- When transporting the ladder, tie it down securely and carry it parallel to the ground.

- Use the ladder only for the purpose for which it was designed (refer to the manufacturer's labeling and recommendations).

- Use only non-conductive side rails around live electrical equipment.

- Do not load ladder beyond maximum intended load.

- Keep the area around the top and bottom of the ladder clear.

- Do not move, shift, or extend the ladder while occupied. Never "walk" a ladder!

- Do not use the top of the ladder or its top step for standing or stepping.

- Do not stand on cross bracing.

- Always face the ladder when climbing or descending.

- Always maintain 3 points of

contact with the ladder (2 feet/1 hand or 2 hands/1 foot).

- Carry tools in a pouch around your waist; use a rope to raise or lower large items such as tool boxes or materials.

- Do not overextend sideways. Remember the belt buckle rule: Keep your belt buckle positioned between the side rails at all times. This maintains your center of gravity.

- Never allow more than one person on the ladder at a time.

- Consider replacing traditional gutters with the guaranteed clog-free Gutter Solution System and never clean gutters again. This advanced gutter design is available throughout Michigan by calling Paul Zondlak at 1-800-727-2747.

Laminated flooring products, which are ideal for hallways, dining and living areas and bedrooms, are exploding in the marketplace as a viable alternative to the in other flooring options.

natural wood planks add an elegant look to any room in the house.

For more information on EternaFloor, including free brochures, call 1-800-801-9382.

Easy-to-install EternaFloor

## Flooring option available

**NOW OPEN!**

### Affordability. Our most popular standard feature.

From the \$140's

From the \$120's

**Introducing Woodcliff Village,** a brand new condominium community offered by Adler Building & Dev. Co. Woodcliff Village offers two bedroom, two bath condominiums with two-car attached garages and is conveniently located near M-59 and US-23 in Hartland.

**HARTLAND**  
Open Daily 12-6 p.m.  
Closed Thurs.  
(810) 632-6497

**Introducing The Village at EAGLE GARDENS,** a brand new condominium community offered by Adler Building & Dev. Co. The Village offers two bedroom, two bath condominiums with two-car attached garages and is conveniently located between Brighton and Ann Arbor.

**WHITMORE LAKE**  
Open Daily 12-6 p.m.  
Closed Thurs.  
(313) 449-9014

Brokers Welcome

CALL (810) 737-3553 FOR INFORMATION ABOUT OUR SINGLE-FAMILY HOME COMMUNITIES!

**COHEN ASSOCIATES, INC.**  
(810) 851-6620

### Luxury On A Grand Scale Attention To The Smallest Detail

**WEST BLOOMFIELD**  
Beautiful new home designs in this magnificent setting, tucked into the rare privacy of deep, unspoiled woodlands. From the mid \$300,000's. 810-669-1070 Built in conjunction with The Selective Group

**PARK RIDGE SOUTH**  
A great location, minutes from Laurel Park Place with Northville's acclaimed schools. Visit our fresh new decorated model and see this magnificent wooded site. From the \$290,000's. 313-420-1145

**NORTHVILLE**  
A picture perfect wooded neighborhood with all sports lake privileges. New model plans now available. From the low \$240,000's. 810-960-0770

**CONSERVATION**  
A village atmosphere, winding sidewalks and a great location with exemplary Novi schools. Beautifully decorated models now open. Several homes currently under construction for quick occupancy. From the \$270,000's. 810-347-7855 Built in conjunction with Crescendo Builders

**HILLSBOROUGH**  
A picture perfect wooded neighborhood with all sports lake privileges. New model plans now available. From the low \$240,000's. 810-960-0770

**LEON LAKE WOODS**  
A picture perfect wooded neighborhood with all sports lake privileges. New model plans now available. From the low \$240,000's. 810-960-0770

**COAST GUARDIAN**  
A picture perfect wooded neighborhood with all sports lake privileges. New model plans now available. From the low \$240,000's. 810-960-0770

**TRI-MOUNT PRESENTS**

# NOVI '96

4 DESIRABLE COMMUNITIES OF FINE CUSTOM HOMES

**WALDEN WOODS**  
A Real Winner...Selling Fast  
• 2800 to 3500 Sq. Ft.  
• One of NOVI's Most prestigious addresses!  
• All 3 Car Side Entrance Garages  
From the \$315's Call 348-2770

**WINTERGREEN PARK**  
NOW AVAILABLE!  
• Beautiful Wooded Settings  
• WALKOUTS Available  
• 2800 to 3500 Sq. Ft.  
• Side Entrance 3 Car Garages  
From the \$290's Call 348-2770

**MOCKINGBIRD**  
Very Desirable Location!  
• Half Acre Sites  
• All Side Entrance Garages  
• 2400 to 2650 Sq. Ft.  
From the \$235's Call 449-6436  
**IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY!**

**CREEK CROSSING**  
The Home You've Always Wanted!  
• 4 and 4 Bedroom Colonials  
• Master Bedroom First Floor  
• 8 Homes Remaining!  
From the \$179's Call 449-6436  
**SEE SALESMAN AT MOCKINGBIRD**

**NOVI SCHOOLS**  
SIDEWALKS FOR KIDS

OPEN EVERY DAY 1 to 6  
Closed Thursday

TRI-MOUNT Custom Homes