Clean gutters can ease winter woes

Many homeowners are win-terizing their homes to ensure they won't incur any problems from the harsh winter weather. Yet, among the most over-looked areas of home mainte-

Yet, among the most overhooked areas of home maintenance are the gutters.

According to Tom Hutchins, owner of HandyPro Handyman Service in Southfield, proper gutter maintenance in the fall can eliminate many potential problems homeowners can face during the winter months.

Most people spend a lot of time putting away lawn furniture, changing their furnace filters or making sure their windows are sealed with weather-stripping, but the weather-stripping, but the weather-stripping, but they neglect to clean and check the gutters. Hutchins said.

If the home's gutters are full of leaves and debris, a ren't properly aligned or have leaks in the scames, it could cause problems when the winter snows nelt in the spring.

To ensure gutters are ready gests the following tips:

Clean leaves and other debris from the inside of the gutters, and make sure the holes going to the downspouts are clear to allow water to run freely.

holes going to the document of run freely.

Check the seams in the gutters and downspouts for leaks. If the seams are leaking, clean the seam with a wire

brush to remove old caulk or adhesive, and recaulk with a silicone caulk.

■ Make sure the downspouts drain far enough away from the home to avoid puddles in the grass. Buy downspout extensions to help the water drain farther from the home is necessary.

■ Check the gutters to ensure they are aligned properly to allow water to flow to the downspouts. If they aren't aligned properly, to properly, to allow water to flow to the downspouts. Properly working gutters allow water to drain quickly and away from the house, which helps alloviate the potential for ice dams building up and causing roof leaks, Hutchins said.

Water from leaky gutters can also drip on a porch or sidewalk, which could then freeze and cause asome to slip and fall, he said.

Which from leaky gutter maintennee is fairly simple, others could be more complicated for the reverse per homeowner, especially if peeple don't like to be not pof their roche said.

The company helps and and the proper help catton is locations in Farmington Hills and Ann Arbor. For more information, call (800) 9-HANDY-4.

Put people in your landscapes

Most landscape photographers, myself included, attempt to produce as ignega an image as possible using the techniques of proper center of interest, framing, directional lead-in lines, etc. But rarely do we include people in the picture.

There may be times, however, when a landscape isn't strong enough on its own and the inclusion of a person can be an important addition to the composition. For example, a person can did

enouga on its own and the incursion of a person can be an important addition to the composition. For example, a person can and scale to a photograph to get the feel of the height of a waterfall or the size of a mountain. An isolated person can be an effective way of showing the desolution or lonely aspect of a region.

I remember once photographing a pagoda in a remote area of China. After composing the shot, I concluded that the silhouette of a person was needed to make the picture really strong. I waited three hours for someone to arrive, but the wait paid offl The picture shown hero is another example. I was photographing in the Swiss Alps trying to capture the grandeur of these great mountains. Many of the pictures came out spectacular, but I thought I could add another dimension by having a person in the picture. My thought became real when a woman and hor-dog out for a hike appeared in my viewfinder. Adding a pressor is not here cannot are.

For instance, if photographing an overall of the country in Ireland, including a sheepherder,

PHOTOGRAPHY



MONTE NAGLER

There may be times when a landscape isn't strong enough on its own and the inclusion of a person can be an important addition to the composition.

adds that special touch. If shooting the canals in Venice, wait for the gondolier to appear in the

Study your landscape before you shoot and ask yourself if the inclusion of a person would help. Remember, there may be times when you can use a friend or traveling companion as the per-fect model.

Monte Nagler is a fine art pho-tographer based in Farmington Hills. You can leave him a mes-sage by diating (734) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone. His fax number is (248) 644-1314.



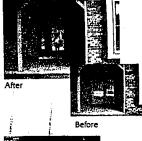
Swiss mist: The grandeur of the Swiss Alps is brought into scale by adding the woman and her dog into the composition. Photo by Monte Nagler.

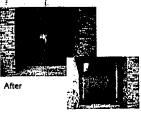
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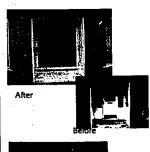


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