

Protection and Service

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Outdoor Spring Cleaning Safety Tips

Spring is in the air and in your step. It's time to clear away winter's last remnants. Before beginning your exterior spring cleaning, consider these safety tips from Erie Insurance Group:

Wear the appropriate protective clothing

- Heavy, non-slip shoes will help you keep your footing.
- Long pants and wraparound goggles will protect you against rocks, wood and other objects thrown from the blades under the mower.
- Wear clothes that fit. Loose clothing can become caught in equipment's moving parts.
- Earplugs will protect your hearing.
- Gloves will protect your hands.

Keep your feet on the ground

- Use a pressure sprayer to wash windows.
- Clean gutters with an extension rod.
- Inspect the roof from the attic.
- If you must use a ladder, make sure it is sturdy, properly locked and anchored, and tall enough for what you need to reach. Enlist a helper to hold the ladder steady.

Be aware

- Before using any equipment or tools, carefully read all warnings and instructions.
- Before mowing, walk the yard and remove rocks, sticks and other objects that could become mower-launched missiles.
- Never leave power tools unattended.
- Put tools away at the end of the day to deter theft.

Keep pets and others safe

- Keep kids and pets away from the mower. The blades are dangerous, and objects can be shot out from under the mower.
- Never allow a child on or near a riding mower.

Prevent fire

- Handle flammable fuels with care. Never fill a tank when an engine is running or still hot.
- Clean up spills and store fuel away from the house in a safety-approved container.
- Use only UL-approved extension cords that are rated for outdoor use. Inspect them often to make sure they're in good condition.
- Prevent electrocution by never using power tools or extension cords when it is wet or damp outdoors.



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