



# 6 Steps To Clearing Out Your Gutters



 0116 366 9952

**Leicestershire's no 1 Gutter Cleaning Service**

# Dear Local Home owner,

Thank you for requesting our 6 steps to clearing out your gutters.  
Here at Java Cleaning Services, we love those gutter jobs you hate!

*In our guide we will share with you 6 steps to clear out your gutters.*

As professionals and experts in our trade, we love nothing more than helping our local residents of Leicestershire to clear out and remove any potential problems from their gutter; even more so during lock down when people can't always come and do the work for you.

*In this simple guide, we'll teach you how to do it safely with some simple tools to avoid you causing any difficulties and any damage to your gutters in the future. And clearly, we can be on hand anytime to help you do those gutter jobs you hate and we're more than happy to take a look for you when we can. You can even send us your pictures.*



*James Feakes*



**Java Cleaning Services**

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# 1- GETTING YOUR HOME PREPARED

Gutters that are clogged with leaves and debris can cause lots of problems. By keeping them clear, you're helping to protect your windows, doors, sides of the house and also the foundations from water damage. If you happen to have a basement, you'll also be helping prevent flooding down there too.

Whilst you may want to use a professional to clean your gutters, it may not be possible or you might just want to save a bit of money.

It's quite easy to get your home prepared for clearing out your gutters. All you need do is make sure there are no obstacles in the way of where you will be, as you move round your home with the ladder.

Do a visual check of your gutters and downpipes from ground level for any obvious damage so you have a better idea of what may or may not need fixing. It's quite common for joints between the gutters to pop out. It's noticeable by the join clip that goes over the top of where two gutter sections join. If that is the case, just push it back into place until you feel it click over the rim. If it doesn't clip back into place, then you may need a new one. While you are there, it would be a good idea to check the rubber seal hasn't perished too. Check your down pipe joints haven't come apart or misaligned and that the bottom of the pipe is correctly going into your drain. If your down pipe is going into a grate, also make sure the grate is clear. This will prevent puddles of water at ground level.



## 2- SAFETY

Please make sure you only tackle your gutters if you are confident to do so, otherwise you should call in the professionals who would make quick and easy work of it and who are insured to do so. Accidents can so easily happen when there is a lack of experience.

Before you get started, you need to ensure that you have a sturdy ladder and someone to hold the bottom of it for you. It would be wise to use a ladder stand-off so as not to put unnecessary pressure on your gutters, but more importantly, it will help you to not over reach when you are clearing out your gutters. You can even buy stand-offs for the external corner of properties too, which come in very handy for some hard to reach areas. These are available at any good DIY store or online.

It would be advisable to wear a long sleeved shirt and hard-wearing workwear as this job can be very dirty and smelly! Also, as you are edging your way down the gutters, if one has become chipped or broken, the edge can be quite sharp, so it would be a wise move to cover your skin.

You must not forget that you are clearing out a mixture of materials including bird faeces, which you really don't want to splash on your skin and definitely not in your eyes, so **eye protection** is a must.



# 3- CLEAN AND CLEAR

Taking an empty bucket up the ladder, work your way around the gutters, scooping out as much of the debris as possible with either gloved hands or a narrow garden trowel (with gloves on too). You can buy gutter scoops which are especially designed for the job, but to be honest, a garden trowel will do just as good a job. Do NOT over-reach at any point. When you find that you are starting to get to that point, you will need to move the ladder. If there is no other way but to overreach to clear out any area, you will need to call out the pro's, who are trained to overcome these problems, with their experience and specialised equipment.

If you know your down pipes are blocked, then there are a couple of ways to clear these. Normally and most commonly, the block will be just below the entry, near the bend in the down pipe. If you can safely get your hand in, you'll be able to pull the plug out... **Job done!**

If not, you can take the gutter swan neck (the bending part of the down pipe) off. Clear it out and replace. These normally just fit together without any fixings. Only do this, if you can do so safely.

There are drain augers on the market which are basically long, strong and flexible rods with a corkscrew on the end. From the top of the downpipe, push this down the pipe. When you reach the blockage, twist the rod so it screws and embeds itself into the blockage. You should then pull this out. However, please bare in mind it is very easy to push the blockage further down the pipe, condensing the block and just making it worse. If this happens, then the down pipe would need to be taken off and cleaned out. The other way, which I would only recommend if the exit of the down pipe can be redirected out of the drainage system, is to put your hose in the top of the down pipe and wash everything through. If you do this and the trapped soil, plants and silt goes into the drainage system, you may cause yourself other unwanted blockages within the system.

**Again, I would say that you should only do this if you can do so safely.**



# 4-TOOLS

If you are attempting to clear and clean your gutters, there are a number of tools that may make the job easier. Here they are below-

A sturdy ladder and someone who can safely hold the ladder at the bottom.

As already mentioned, I would recommend using a stand-off on your ladder.

You can use a garden trowel or purchase a gutter scoop which are plastic or don some rubber gloves and scoop out the muck with your hands. (Do wear your gloves if using a scoop too)

**It would be advisable to wear long sleeved shirts and hard wearing workwear and eye protection is a must.**



**Ladder stand-off**



**Gutter scoop**



**Auger**

# 5- MAINTENANCE

Maintaining your gutters is a relatively easy job to do, albeit mucky at times. But like everything, it's easy if you know how. The easiest of jobs also come with an element of caution and this one is no exception. You will be clearing out smelly material and generally at height.

It is recommended that your gutters are cleared out at least every year and more often if required. If your home is near trees, then it may be prudent to have them cleared in autumn and then in the spring. Leaves will drop into your gutters in the autumn and the storms during the winter months will wash your roof, pushing the moss and debris into your gutters.

This in turn will pay you dividends in eliminating potential costly repairs due to unseen water damage, including but not limited to, Roof Leaks, Nesting Pests, Damp and Damage to your foundations.

Let's face it. Who goes outside when it's raining to check if their gutters are failing? Do you?



# 6- Sit back, relax and spend your time doing the things you love!

Once you have successfully cleared out your gutters and made sure your downpipes are free from blockages, you can sit back and relax in the knowledge that when it rains, the water will flow freely to your drains, where it is intended to go....

For any advice, tips or if you would like us to clear out your gutters for you, then we would love to hear from you. We love clearing gutters out and we can even clean your soffits and fascias too if you wish.

To find out more just call us on **0116 366 9952** visit our Website, Facebook or Google Page, which has some really nice words about us from some of our customers...



## Meet Our Java Family

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“Had Java Cleaning Services to clean out guttering. On one side of my property the gutter was overflowing due to down pipe blockage caused by moss off the roof. Had my doubts as to whether their system would do it. Need not have worried, James cleared the blockage and showed me pictures of the cleared pipe and clean gutters. He is a very pleasant guy, easy to talk to and I will use him again and recommend him”...

**Mervyn**

“Great service by James - he was punctual & did a great job. No mess & the gutters & fascias now look very clean. Thank you.”... **Tracey**



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