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Equipment

## Spring Tune Up Special



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**RIDING MOWERS:**  
Tune-up Special  
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Tune-up Special  
from **\$59.95** plus parts



**TUNE UPS INCLUDE:**

1. Wash equipment	5. Sharpen or replace blade and clean under carriage
2. Change engine oil and filter	6. Replace spark plugs
3. Maintenance air filter	7. Make sure battery is charged
4. Clean cooling air intake	8. Adjust tire pressure



Call Corrine for details and appointment. Certain conditions apply.  
Valid until April 30, 2002.

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Corrine

## Gutter diving should become a lost art

Like most homeowners, you're probably sick and tired of gutter yecch. That's the wet, mildewy stuff, sometimes laden with spiders and various insect pupae, that inhabits a home's gutters. Like many, you vow every year to alleviate the gross encounters with this awful stuff. You'll either get up there earlier in the year, or you'll find a solution once and for all.

That said, it's spring, so make the decision: Either it's more spiders and yuck, or this is finally the year you make your number one home improvement project the gutters. You can purchase heavy-duty rubber gloves, or you can finally invest in some type of gutter protection. Take it from those who have been there...say good-bye to the ladder, and check out the available gutter protection products.

There are a number of good gutter protectors, designed to allow water in while keeping debris out. Depending on what part of North America you live in, you're likely to encounter all manner of deciduous tree leaves, pine needles, maple seeds (among the worst!) and granules from asphalt shingles in your gutters. Alone or in combination, they'll make your gutters overflow, clog the downspout and lead to possible basement flooding. Almost any one of the gutter guards on the market will measurably alleviate the problem.

You can even order online, from places like GuttersDirect.com, which offers the Solid Cover Gutter Guard at around \$4.40 per four-foot section, in

either white or clay as the color choices. Each section snaps on to fit about four inches up the roof pitch, and then has a deep, narrow lip over the gutter. Rain water flows through the lip channel to the downspout, while moist leaves and other tree matter are too big to slip inside.

The RainhandleR from Savetime Corp. doesn't just protect gutters from debris, it breaks the stream of rain water using a system of angled louvers that breaks up the downfall into droplets, and then deflects them away from the roof and gutters entirely. If you have a problem with erosion from either a sloped yard or from heavily used downspouts, this system may be worth a try. It comes in five-foot sections for around \$22 each, which includes mounting hardware.

Lots of homeowners will swear by the GutterHelmet system, one of the oldest gutter protection systems. Attached with solid 50-gauge brackets to the roof's edge, the Gutter Helmet has an extended "nose" that curls as it reaches the outer edge of the gutter. The small space at the end of the "nose" is only enough for water to slip by, but not debris. The water is slowed and sheeted by a ribbed design, allowing smooth dispersion. Find a local dealer for pricing, or check online at gutterhelmet.com.

Until they make gutter diving an Olympic sport, wouldn't it just be better to not have to practice for hours. And just think of the money you will save on rubber gloves if you invest in a gutter protector now.

—By Daniel Aspell, special

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\*See store for details

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