

## Safe Roof Moss Control

Removing roof moss is a challenge and many treatments can harm our environment and waterways. Follow the tips below to help prevent and treat roof moss in an environmentally-friendly way.

### The Problem

- Roof moss can hold moisture on the roof, causing leaks and serious damage.
- Concentrate control efforts on the most moss-prone areas—north-facing slopes and areas shaded by trees.
- See where and when moss grows thickest. These are areas that may need more light and less moisture.

### Prevent

- Clean your roof once or twice a year (tips below). Remove leaves and pine needles that hold moisture on the roof.
- Prune back overhanging branches to reduce shade and moisture on roofs. Pruning will let in more light and slow moss buildup.
- If you are replacing your roof, consider installing metal. Metal roofing is too smooth for moss to grow on and doesn't need replacing. It is more expensive than composite shingles, but since the lifetime of the roof is longer, the overall cost is comparable.

### Manage

- Moss is easiest to remove in summer when it is dried out.
- Gentle wet sweeping or a leaf blower can be enough to remove small, newly established patches.



- During the summer, sprinkle powdered dish or laundry detergent on moss-covered areas. Wait three or four days and remove moss with a broom or brush. Be sure to clean the moss and soap out of the gutters as well.
- Use a scraper or heavy wire brush if gentle brushing doesn't work.
- Don't power-wash the roof. It can damage shingles or get water under them.
- You may want to hire someone to remove moss for you if your roof is steep.

- Look for products containing soaps, fatty acids or ferrous sulfate. Check out Metro's Grow Smart, Grow Safe guide to safer lawn and garden products.
- Prevent runoff. Don't allow moss control products or contaminated rinse water to run into a storm drain or into the street. Disconnect your downspout after application and let water from your roof filter through your lawn. Reconnect your downspout after the first flush of rain water from your roof.

### Moss Control Products

- Avoid products containing zinc sulfate. It can pollute streams and is toxic to aquatic animals. Also, it kills moss but won't remove plant material, so you'll still need to clean your roof.

