

DIRTY WORK



PAUL DESMARAIS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Gutter Guys LLC in Stamford, with Alex Goliszewski, left, and Kevin Rogalski, is opening a location in Bridgeport in April.

Gutter Guys grows to Park City

By Harold Davis
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Not everybody is cut out to crawl on a steep, scratchy rooftop and clean the glop from their gutters, but Alex Goliszewski and Kevin Rogalski, partners of Gutter Guys LLC in Stamford, say they are more than qualified, having 20 years experience under their belts.

"People don't want to do this because it's dirty and dangerous, but there's skill needed," said Rogalski, who has expunged bird and rodent nests, in addition to leaves, muck and water from clients' gutters.

The work has earned the Gutter Guys more than 2,000 customers, including homes, condominiums and property management accounts.

It's such a good business that they've decided to open a location in Bridgeport next month.

"Rather than being in traffic, we can be on the job," said Rogalski, a Fairfield resident.

The new space, at 7 Island Brook Ave., is a little more than 3,000 square feet and will share staff with the company's Stamford location at

AN EYE ON BUSINESS

92 Camp Ave.

Though growth presents its challenges, the partners said they believe that now is the time to expand.

"We realize that we're not the small business that we once we were, but we want to retain that small business feel, where the owners are approachable," Goliszewski said.

Gutter Guys services gutters year-round, but fall and spring are peak seasons.

Goliszewski advises cleaning gutters at least once a year, because gutters expand and contract with changes in weather.

Even a small leak can be damaging.

"The health of the house starts with the gutter system. Your paint, masonry, windows, basement and foundation can be affected by a poorly maintained gutter system," said Goliszewski, a Norwalk resident.

Richard Roll, president of the Amer-

ican Homeowners Association, said that gutters often are neglected by homeowners because they are a "pain in the butt" to clean.

"People are busy, and it's easy to overlook," Roll said.

If you choose not to climb the ladder yourself, check the contractor's bona fides before you hire someone to clean your gutters, added Roll, whose Stamford-based association offers practical home-related information and advice with product and service discounts for its members.

"If you're going to use an outside service to help you, you should use a reputable and experienced company that supervises its crew," he said.

The Gutter Guys' Web site offers information on services and details on the company. Starting as a cleaning service, the partners have expanded into repairs and installing fully customized gutter systems.

A cleaning costs at least \$75, with most jobs from \$90 to \$180, Goliszewski said.

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