



Tony's Roofing Warns Puget Sound Homeowners That the Wrong Moss Removal Costs More Than the Moss

The dry window for safe roof cleaning closes with the first sustained rain

AUBURN, WA, UNITED STATES, September 2, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Tony's Roofing is encouraging homeowners across Pierce and King County to schedule roof cleaning and moss treatment in the remaining dry weeks of summer, and to ask one specific question before hiring anyone: what pressure will be used.

The timing is straightforward. Moss on a Western Washington roof is dormant and dry through late summer, which is when it can be treated and removed safely and when a roof can be walked without unreasonable risk. Once sustained rain returns in the fall, moss reactivates, surfaces become slick, and the practical window closes until the following summer. A roof that misses the window carries another full wet season of growth.

Moss is a structural problem, not a cosmetic one

The reason that matters is what moss does mechanically. Moss anchors itself with rhizoids that work into the edges of shingles and lift them, and a lifted shingle edge is a water infiltration path. Left long enough, moisture held against the roof surface reaches the underlayment beneath.

Growth is heaviest where Puget Sound roofs stay shaded and damp: north-facing slopes, sections under tree canopy, and areas where debris collects and holds water.

The method is where homeowners lose money

GAF, North America's largest roofing manufacturer, addresses cleaning directly in its technical guidance for asphalt shingles. The bulletin calls for low-pressure application of a specific cleaning solution and states plainly that shingles should not be power washed, because doing so can dislodge granules and lead to premature shingle failure. GAF also recommends that moss removal be handled by a professional, and that rinsing be done at low pressure and at a downward angle so water does not lift or warp shingles.

Granules are not decorative. They shield the asphalt from ultraviolet light and contribute to the shingle's fire and weather performance. Widespread granule loss is not something a later

cleaning can reverse, and high-pressure washing is a common cause of manufacturer warranty disputes.

The practical consequence is that the fastest, most visually satisfying cleaning method is frequently the one that takes years off the roof. Homeowners are encouraged to decline any proposal built around high pressure or aggressive brushing on composition shingles.

Cedar is a different substrate and does not share asphalt's constraints, so method should follow roof type. Tony's Roofing works extensively with cedar roofing across the region.

What actually prevents regrowth

Cleaning addresses what is already there. It does not change the conditions that produced it, and in a climate like Western Washington's, untreated roofs commonly see moss return within a few years.

Zinc or copper strips installed near the ridge release trace metal ions during rainfall that inhibit new growth on the slope below. Manufacturer guidance frames these as inhibitors rather than cleaners, so they are a follow-up to treatment, not a substitute for it, and they must be installed so fasteners and flashing do not introduce new leak points.

Trimming branches back from the roof to increase sun exposure and reduce debris, and keeping gutters clear so water does not pool at the eaves, address the underlying moisture conditions.

Booking ahead of the season

Tony's Roofing recommends homeowners combine cleaning with an inspection, since a crew already on the roof can identify lifted shingles, failed flashing, and granule loss before the wet season tests them. The company also provides [roof inspections](#) for real estate transactions, storm and wind damage repair, and insurance claim work.

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