



## Eco-Friendly Way To Remove Roof Moss

If you're like most people in the area you have a tar shingle roof because it's the most affordable option. You'd probably like to save more money by keeping your roof free of moss to prevent faster deterioration of your shingles.

There are mechanical ways to remove moss and most chemical applications require mechanical methods after the moss has been killed. In any case, whether you have tar shingles or metal roof, whether you are dealing with an existing moss or are taken preventative measures, moss spores are every and will continue to grow back year after year.

### Know your enemy

Moss is beneficial and naturally occurring in the Northwest, but it can also cause water damage and slipping hazards on human made structures. Moss loves moist and shady conditions. You may reduce moss growth by pruning branches that shade your roof and removing nearby leaves, pine needles and branches. Once you carefully clear brush from your roof, you can use a garden hose or wet broom to push moss off the roof. Pressure washers can also be used but are generally not recommended because they can damage roofing materials. Many local businesses can provide manual moss removal services.

### Eco-friendly chemicals

Liquid application during a dry spell is considered best practice and if using powdered chemicals avoid applying when heavy rains are forecasted. Potassium salts of fatty acids and ammonium salts of fatty acids are low-hazard active ingredients to look for. If you're looking for a long-term solution, installing metallic zinc strips on your roof can be a great solution. These metal strips stop or slow the growth of moss for years at a time.

### Chemicals to avoid

Many off the shelf moss-removal chemicals can cause harm to you, your family and your pets. Hazardous chemicals include Ammonium sulfate, copper sulfate, ferric and ferrous sulfates, sodium pentachlorophenate, zinc chloride, and zinc sulfate. Keep your eyes peeled for these ingredients.



Helpful resources:

<https://bryophytes.science.oregonstate.edu/page18.htm>

<https://theriverstartshere.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Moss-control.pdf>

<https://www.oregonmetro.gov/tools-living/healthy-home/common-hazardous-products/moss-killer>