

A Guide to Maintenance-Free Gutter Systems...



Helpful Information Courtesy of:
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Maintenance-Free Gutter Systems...



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Introduction

The comfort of being able to enter and exit your home without getting soaked is the most obvious reason for getting rain gutters. But the advantages go much further than simple convenience.

Properly installed rain gutters will direct rain water run-off away from the building's foundation where it may leak into the basement, or cause damage to the foundation itself by causing it to heave or settle. Rain gutters will prevent damage to landscaping, steps, decks, and walkway pavers by eliminating the "sheet" of water that falls from your roofline. The damage caused to siding, doors, thresholds, and garage doors due to splash-back can be eliminated with a properly installed rain gutter system.

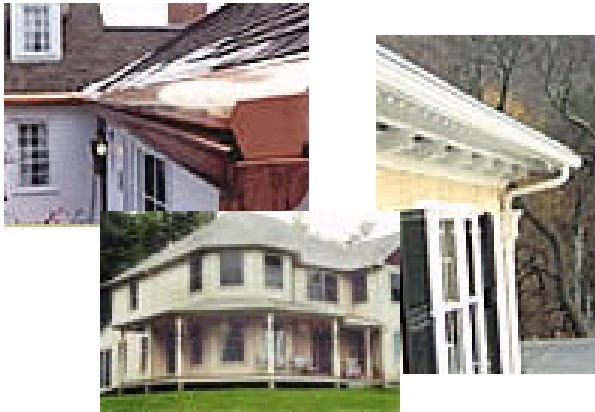
Until recently, the next advantage of properly installed rain gutters has been harder to recognize. When most people picture rain gutters, they see eyesores detracting from the beauty of their homes. Now with the help of the seamless gutter machine, which can provide a more uniform appearance, multiple color selections, along with Worth's quality installation, rain gutters can now add to the look as well as to the value of your home.

When it comes to Maintenance-Free Gutter Systems, there are 4 things that you need to pay close attention to when choosing the right gutter system for your home. These 4 things are:

1. Gutter Material Used
2. Type of Gutter Protector
3. Installation
4. Guarantee

Let's explore these in more detail in the following pages.

Gutter Materials



Seamless Aluminum

Seamless aluminum is the most cost effective material for use as a gutter. It comes in rolls, which varies in thickness and often comes in different colors. The aluminum is extruded through a gutter machine which produces custom lengths to match the exact length needed-- hence the name, seamless aluminum gutter. For example, if a particular side of your house is 75 feet, a 75-foot section of gutter is produced through the machine.

With sectional gutters, leaks tend to occur typically at the seams. You won't have that problem with seamless aluminum gutters, since there are no seams.

The aluminum comes painted from the factory and therefore the paint requires almost no maintenance. The aluminum that Worth's uses carries a 20-year paint finish warranty.

Aluminum varies in thicknesses from 0.032 down to 0.019 in. Because of the harsh New England weather, we recommend using 0.032 in. thick aluminum. This is the thickest material that can be run through the gutter machine, and is least susceptible to damage from the elements.

Copper

Seamless Copper is considered the top of the line. It can last for hundreds of years. Copper carries a certain "status". It is, of course, more expensive. Although copper doesn't take paint well, few people who buy copper actually want it painted.

At Dalyn Solutions, we carry 16 oz. seamless copper systems in both 5- and 6-inch seamless K-style, along with 20 oz. Classic Half Round Gutter Systems in oversized 5-, 6-, and 8-inch. All components associated with the copper system are either brass or stainless steel.

Vinyl

Although effective in other climates, this material is not recommended for use in the New England area due to the harsh weather.

Gutter Protectors



There are several types of gutter protectors in the market today, with more and more being introduced. Below is a short list of things to consider when choosing a gutter protector to keep leaves and debris from clogging up your system. If you keep these items in mind when choosing a gutter protector, you will have peace of mind knowing that your gutter system will provide you years of trouble-free service.

Things to consider:

1. **Material Type and Thickness:** Similar to the materials used for your main gutter system, there are several types of materials available for gutter protectors. Our recommendation is 0.024 aluminum because it's thin enough to easily mount under shingles, but strong enough to withstand snow and ice.
2. **Material Guarantee:** Look for a product that has a least a 20-year material guarantee against paint peeling, chipping, cracking, or blistering. This is your assurance that the look of your gutter system will not deteriorate over time and take away from the beauty of your home.
3. **Performance Guarantee:** As the name implies, a performance guarantee is simply just that-- a guarantee that the gutter cover will do what it says it will do. Not only does a

performance guarantee show the confidence the manufacturer has in the way their product will perform, it provides you with the peace of mind of knowing that your gutter system is truly maintenance and hassle-free. Only truly maintenance-free gutter protectors will offer this guarantee.

4. **Designs :** There are many different designs available for gutter protectors, all claiming to do exactly the same thing better than everyone else. It's extremely difficult to tell which ones will actually work and which ones are a waste of money. The performance guarantee is a much more important factor in choosing your gutter protector than the design of the protector.

We have compiled a comprehensive comparison sheet comparing and contrasting 7 major gutter protector manufacturers. During your free estimate, we will provide you with this list and explain to you other key points to consider when selecting a gutter protector.



Installation



When it comes right down to it, proper installation of your rain gutters is an absolute critical factor to be considered. After all, what good are quality gutters if they are not installed properly in the first place?

In order to know whether your rain gutters will be properly installed, you need to take a look at the components used for installation and the installation company's qualifications.

Components:

Hangers

For flat fascia installations, we recommend the Hangtite hidden hanger by Raytec Manufacturing. The Hangtite is self-bracing at the points of greatest stress. Manufactured of heavy tempered aluminum, this is the strongest hanger in its category, testing up to 260 lbs per hanger. This allows the gutter system to withstand the harshest New England weather conditions without blowing off or falling.

For installations requiring attachment to the roof, we recommend Vampire hangers by Petit Tool. The Vampire is a flat aluminum strap that can be readily inserted under the shingle without creating the stress that the thicker rod-style hangers will. Once again, This allows the gutter system to withstand the harshest New England weather conditions without failing due to the accumulated weight of snow and ice.

Fasteners

We also recommend Deckmate Evercote fasteners for fascia and roof attachments. The Deckmates have the proper shaft and Evercote finish and is superior to galvanized or powder-coated fasteners. They will not deteriorate because of the elements.

Sealer

An extremely important but often forgotten aspect of gutter installation is the sealant used for the corners and end caps of the gutter system. A typical sealer used is caulk. However, caulk lacks the pliability and flexibility needed to cope with the harsh New England weather. For example, aluminum expands and contracts in relation to the temperature. This expansion and contraction will cause caulk to crack, eventually losing its seal, which results in leaks.

To seal all aluminum-to-aluminum connections, we recommend Geocell tripolymer seam sealant. Geocell is an extremely durable yet flexible sealant, which provides a permanent watertight seal at corners and end caps.

We also recommend Dow 100% silicone glazing sealant applied in a continuous bead on the back of the gutter at the flat fascia applications. This not only prevents water from getting behind the gutter, but also adds strength to the installation.

Installation Company Qualifications:

Because there are no regulations or licensing requirements, just about anybody can get into the gutter installation business... and there's a lot of them that do. There's a good chance that you won't be able to tell who's competent to do the job, and whose just trying to make a quick buck... until now.

Quality gutter systems, installed by amateurs is a waste of money. Make sure the installers have the following qualifications:

1. They are factory trained to properly install the gutter system.
2. They are company employees and not subcontracted workers to ensure quality control.
3. They carry the proper insurances, such as Workman's Compensation and Liability Insurance.

To make choosing the right company to install your maintenance free gutter system easier, we've enclosed a Gutter Company Comparison Checklist on the following page for you to use.

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM COSTLY MISTAKES!
 Make Sure Your Gutter Company Measures Up to the
Regional Performance Specification Standard for Gutter Installation !

	<i>Dalyn</i>		
Do you perform a professional onsite project evaluation?	YES		
Do you provide a clear professional written Proposal, including specifications for all products used?	YES		
Do you show samples of the materials used during the installation?	YES		
Are you a Member of The Certified Contractors Network?	YES		
Are you a Member of The National Association of Homebuilders?	YES		
Are you registered with the Better Business Bureau?	YES		
Is your record with the Better Business Bureau free of any unresolved complaints?	YES		
How many years have you been in business?	16		
Do you have Liability Insurance, and do you carry Workman's Compensation Insurance? Can I see a copy of the policy?	YES		
In the event that physical damage occurs to my property during the installation process, are you responsible to pay for the damages? Is that covered by your liability insurance?	YES		
How much Liability Insurance Coverage do you carry?	\$1 Million		
Do you have trained & certified installers who are your employees-- NOT subcontractors?	YES		
Are your employees drug tested?	YES		
Do your employees receive continual training in customer service, as well as technical training?	YES		
Is the installer going to walk through with a detailed checklist BEFORE final payment is made? Do you require 100% customer satisfaction for sign off?	YES		
Do you have references that I can call?	YES		
Do you have a warranty outside of the Manufacturer's Warranty? Do you have a written copy of it?	YES		
What is the length of your labor warranty? Product warranty?	7/20		
Do you offer a maintenance free system?	YES		
Does your maintenance free system offer a lifetime performance warranty?	YES		
Do you service what you sell? Do I call you if I have problems with the system? Do you have that in writing?	YES		
Do you have a permanent business location where material samples can be viewed?	YES		
Do you have an office that is staffed with friendly, courteous, customer service personnel, and is open during normal business hours?	YES		

Guarantees



Lifetime Guarantee

- *Guaranteed for the life of your home.*
- *Transferable to the new owner when you sell your home.*



GUTTERTOPPER®
Gutter Protection Solutions
Beautiful. Safe. Strong.

When it comes to maintenance-free gutter systems, the proof that you are making the right decision in the product you're buying lies in the guarantee. There are 3 guarantees that you need to make sure that your maintenance-free gutter system comes with:

1. Installation
2. Material
3. Performance

Installation

The installation guarantee protects you from shoddy workmanship. It covers against any mistakes made by the installers during the installation process.

Material

The material warranty covers the materials used for the gutter system. Typically, it provides protection against chipping, peeling, cracking, or blistering of the finished surface of the system.

Performance

The final guarantee is for performance. Product performance claims made on paper is worthless if it doesn't actually do what it said it would do. Performance guarantees provide you the peace of mind that your system will actually work as expected.