



Buyer's Guide to Gutter Systems

This guide is presented to help you understand the purpose of a quality gutter system for your home, and to offer recommendations on choosing the best gutter protection system.

Few homeowners give a lot of thought to their gutter and downspouts on their home. But a properly functioning guttering system can literally save you thousands of dollars in structural damage over the life of your home. Here are a few good reasons why you should consider having a professionally-installed gutter system on your home.

Rain gutters provide a valuable function in the upkeep of any home. They are a simple way to channel rainwater off of your roof and away from your home. They protect your home from damage because without them you would constantly be having rainwater running down the sides of the house, or going on the fascia boards and rafters.

If this happen on a continual basis, the structure can be compromised, including the foundation. Homes with poorly designed downspouts, or with gutters that regularly clog with debris, will have rainwater collect and pool underneath the foundation.

This eventually weakens the foundation, causing thousands of dollars worth of damage. Replacing damaged roofs, siding and other areas of your home can be very expensive to say the least, running into the thousands of dollars.

Today, gutters and downspouts have many different designs than they did just some 20 years ago. Seamless gutters and gutter guards help to lengthen the life expectancy of your roof and your home.

As a maintenance feature, gutter protection systems such as GutterShutter™ make cleaning your gutters a thing of the past. It eliminates leaves and other debris from clogging gutters and downspouts and forcing you to climb a ladder and clean them out.

4 Signs You Need New Gutters

There are many ways you can tell how and when you need new gutters. Many of these signs will be visible, but you will also need to break out that ladder and take a closer look.

Sectional gutters and seamless gutters do have a lifespan, just like many other components of your home. If you bought a home and have no idea how old your sectional gutters or seamless gutters are, you can use some of these steps to determine the 4 signs you need new gutters.

1. One of the first ways you can tell if you need new gutters is to take a look at the surface of your gutters. You may need to use a ladder for this step in the process. Are there any visible cracks on the surface of your seamless gutters or wood gutters? Cracks will lead to water leakage, which will lead to water damage on your home. Small cracks in a gutter can also lead to larger cracks rapidly.
2. Another way to tell if you need new gutters is to stay on that ladder and check out the surface of your gutters. Have they been painted? Is the paint peeling? Peeling paint is a sign that your gutters are leaking water, causing the paint around them to peel. Peeling paint on trim near or below the gutter will also be a sign of water leakage. Water is the enemy to your home. The main purpose of gutters it to direct water away from the surface and foundation of your home. Peeling paint is an indicator that your gutters are not doing their job and need to be replaced.



A&A SERVICES
HOME IMPROVEMENT

3. If you can see water damage or water marks located directly below your gutters you may have a problem. As water pours over the surface of your home it is absorbed. As the sun dries out the water you can see water marks and tell take signs left behind.

4. Does water only trickle weakly from your downspouts? If water is not flowing freely from your downspouts, it is a sign that your gutters and downspouts are clogged with leaves and debris. Water can back up and, in the winter, freeze into ice dams, which can seep into your home and cause serious structural damage.

About Gutter Protection Systems

Rain gutter protection systems can help you avoid having to clean out your rain gutters. More importantly, a properly designed and functioning system can keep rainwater flowing freely through your gutters instead of backing up.

Gutters become collection basins for anything that drops on your roof, ranging from leaves, to seed pods, to branches. Over time, these things can pack into the gutter or downspouts, preventing your roof drainage system from working properly. A gutter protection system fits over the rain gutter and prevent solid material from clogging your gutters.

Although most gutter protection systems keep out large objects, smaller objects can fall through the holes where they eventually clog your gutters. The best systems keep all debris from entering the gutter itself.

What Makes GutterShutter™ the Best Choice?

The GutterShutter™ system installed by A&A Services offers several distinct advantages over all other gutter protection systems:

1. Patented design allows water to flow into gutter but prevents leaves, branches and other debris from entering.
2. "Gutter Stud" hanging system is the strongest in the industry.
3. Patented one-piece end cap prevents leaks and separation.
4. Wider gutter and downspouts allow more water to flow easily.
5. Industry-best warranty.

Working With Your Gutter Installer

No matter how good the quality of your gutter protection system, the deciding factor in a successful job is the quality and experience of the installer you choose. Here are some "tests" to determine if your gutter installer is qualified to do the job, and will be easy to work with:

- Is the installer open to discussion about my requirements?
- Does he offer design help and suggestions?
- Is he knowledgeable about gutter protection products, including features, benefits, accessories and warranty?
- Does he carry the necessary licenses and insurance coverage?
- Can I talk with him easily?
- Will the installer provide a list of references?
- Is the installer certified by the manufacturer?
- Does the installer have a good track record in the community?



A&A SERVICES
HOME IMPROVEMENT

Get it in Writing

Your installer should provide you with a written estimate that includes:

- Description of work to be done.
- Specific materials to be used including product names and order numbers.
- Price including all materials and labor.
- Payment schedule or financing information.
- Time schedule.
- Clean up, debris removal, condition of the worksite.
- Installer's warranty policy or guarantee of work.
- Responsibility for permits if applicable.

Installation

As good as the gutter protection system's components are, installation is always the most critical element. What should you expect?

- If new gutters are to be installed along with the protection system, demolition of the old gutters is necessary. This may involve some noise and falling debris.
- We may require access to a power source for our equipment such as electric saws, etc.
- Upon arrival, our crew will do a site inspection. Patio furniture, grills, play-sets and potted plants will be moved out of harms way.
- Landscaping, shrubbery, etc., in the fall zone will be protected with tarps.
- All debris will be removed from the site and disposed of properly.
- The entire work area will be cleaned upon completion.
- All gutters will be cleaned of all debris.



Our Reputation is Our Guarantee

A&A Services has been working with homeowners on the North Shore and in southern New Hampshire for more than 25 years. Your neighbors know the high quality of work we perform, and the high level of service we deliver. Still, we also provide a written guarantee that supplements the manufacturer's warranty on materials.

We look forward to serving your gutter needs!



A&A SERVICES
HOME IMPROVEMENT

115 NORTH STREET, SALEM, MA
(978) 741-0424
www.a-aservices.com

*Serving Eastern Massachusetts &
Southern New Hampshire*