

A-1 ALUMINUM INC.

Gutter Repair 101

Leaking or broken gutters are a prime cause of basement flooding. A few hours spent now on the upkeep and maintenance of gutters can save thousands of dollars later. Your gutters are in the front line of defense against weather related damage. It makes sense to inspect your gutters and take the necessary steps to insure your gutters will handle all the seasonal moisture of rain and snow that comes your way. Before you start, think SAFETY. If you use a ladder, take precautions to make sure the ladder is stable on the ground. Side extensions that allow the ladder to rest against the side of your home are a good idea too.

1. **CLEAR DEBRIS FIRST.** Debris traps the number 1 enemy of gutters: moisture and standing water. Debris also clogs the entrance to downspouts.
2. **HOSE THE GUTTERS CLEAN.** Begin at the high end of each run, or the middle if the run as downspouts at each end.
3. **CLEAR THE DOWNSPOUTS.** If the downspouts run slow or are clogged, pressure from a hose or a plumber's snake will get the job done. Otherwise, you may have to dismantle the downspouts.
4. **GET RID OF RUST.** If rust is present, scrape and wire brush it. Cover with a thin coat of roof cement. If the rust has eaten through the metal cut a patch of metal flashing and cement in place. Coat again with roofing cement.
5. **RAISE SAGGING GUTTERS.** If you notice standing water in a section, raise it with an additional straphanger. You'll need to lift the first shingle in the row so the hanger can rest beneath it. Nail the hanger with galvanized nails.
6. **SECURE THE DOWNSPOUTS.** If the downspout is loose at the bottom, pull the strap out. Apply a small dab of roofing cement to seal the spot where you'll re-nail the strap.
7. **ANGLE SPLASH BLOCKS FROM THE FOUNDATION.** Splash blocks should drain the water away from the foundation. Raise the end of the splash block nearest the foundation with gravel or small rocks.
8. **INSTALL GUTTER CAP.** This will help keep leaves and twigs out of your gutter.
9. **INSTALL WIRE CAGE STRAINERS.** These eliminate downspout clogging. You'll still need to periodically clear the debris that piles up around the strainers.

Gutter maintenance may not sound like fun, but you'll be glad you did it. A few hours spent now are worth the effort. Your gutters should be cleaned at least once annually and inspected at least semi-annually.

Courtesy of A-1 Aluminum Inc.

4405 Kiln Court * Louisville, KY 40218 * (502) 452-2239 * (502) 452-9937 fax
www.a1aluminum.com Page 1 of 1