

Frequently Asked Questions

Why do I need rain gutters?

Uncontrolled rain water can cause serious damage to a home's exterior and eventual interior. Exposure to constant moisture can lead to structural rotting and decay, mold, mildew, and foundation and landscape damage.

When should I replace my gutters?

If you have steel, vinyl or seamed aluminum gutter systems chances are you need to replace them. Steel gutters will rust, creating holes in the bottom of the gutter, prohibiting proper water flow, while vinyl and seamed systems are inadequately pitched, trapping water at the seams, creating multiple leaks.

What do seamless gutters mean?

A seamless gutter is a single piece of gutter formed on the jobsite to match the exact measurements of a particular job. Gutters can be run in lengths up to 100'.

Can you paint over pre-painted aluminum gutters?

Yes, spray or brushed on house paint will adhere to our pre-painted aluminum gutters. However, it will void Spectra's paint finish warranty.

What is tiger striping?

Black vertical lines on the face of gutters are sometimes called 'tiger striping'. These dirt lines are difficult to remove, even with special cleaners.

What is galvanic corrosion?

Metals are rated according to their nobility ratings. When dissimilar metals are in contact with each other in the presence of oxygen and moisture, the more noble metal will corrode the less noble. Contact between dissimilar metals should always be avoided. For example steel and aluminum are on the opposite ends of the nobility charts and should be treated as such.

What is the difference between 5" and 6" gutter? And how are they sized?

5" gutters are 5" in diameter across the top and are predominantly used on standard residential installations. 6" gutters are 6" in diameter across the top of the piece, allows 40% more water flow than 5", and are used predominantly on large or steep pitch roofs.

What kind of paint finish and warranty is on Spectra's gutter and cover material?

All of our gutter material and accessories are coated with a polyester based, baked-on enamel finish, which includes a 20 year manufacturer's warranty.

What gauges are standard for residential gutters? And downspouts?

Residential gutters are standard .027 gauge, with a heavier gauge .032 used in colder climates. Downspouts are standard .019 gauge, and come corrugated to add strength and rigidity.

Why are hangers better than spike and ferrules?

Hidden hangers are fastened to a home's fascia, using screw fasteners, which hold the gutters in place allowing the gutter system to function properly. Spikes are hammered into the fascia, but over time always pull out of the wood taking the gutter with it. This allows the water and debris coming off the roof to go behind the gutter and collect directly on the home's structure, causing damage.

What gauge are the hidden hangers?

Hidden hangers are made of aluminum and are .063 in gauge.

How far apart do you need to install hidden hangers?

SMACNA requires a 36" spacing between hangers, however we recommend a 24" spacing.

Is Leaf Protection Panels nailed into the roof?

No. Our gutter cover does not interfere with the roof decking or roof shingles. Most gutter guards are applied under the first or second row of roof shingles, which can lead to roof warranty issues, broken shingles during installation, and costly uninstal and re-install problems when roof repairs are needed.

Do I need gutter covers if I don't have any trees?

Yes. Any objects that could gather on a roof, like balls, twigs, or leaves blown in from trees around the home, will eventually find its way into the gutters, causing flow issues and overflow problems.