

Needing new gutters is not a bad thing, it's actually beneficial to diagnose gutter needs early before something bad does happen. Faulty gutters can cause a lot more in damage than the cost of a quality gutter system. When gutters leak or fail to properly divert water away from a structure, foundations can become subject to damage. So how do you detect bad gutters? How does one know when it's the right time to install new gutters? We have the answers with our...

DO IT YOURSELF GUTTER GUT CHECK

- Visible Cracking and Splitting**
Gutters come in sections and joints are covered with sleeves to ensure a seamless path for rainwater. Cracks or splits in the joints may be solved with new fittings or minor repairs, depending on the scope of the damage. However, older gutters will split along the channels, resulting in spillage and an interruption of flow.
- Standing Water**
If you discover standing water or puddles along the foundation, look up. Broken gutters cannot direct water away from the immediate area and spillage collects in unusual places, often draining away after a day or two. The water needs to drain away from your house to avoid basement water problems and flooding in window wells or around patio doors.
- Peeling Paint**
Painted areas below and beside gutters and downspouts will often peel or flake away when exposed to an inordinate amount of water. Broken gutters result in spillage and overflow, and that water deteriorates paint rapidly, causing peeling. Watch for patches of peeled paint on siding, trim, decks and patio furniture near the gutters. Without immediate repairs to the paint and gutters, that area will soon rot and decay, resulting in expensive repairs.
- Mildew and Excessive Organic Growth**
Organics thrive when rainwater is left standing in a clogged gutter. Critters will often set up a home nearby this convenient fresh water source and those organics and pests soon create trouble for your home. If you spot mildew on the walls or patio or around windows, doors and trim, inspect the closest gutter for clogging and blockage. This could be a result of buildup in the gutters.
- Rotted Shingles**
Keep a close eye on the outer edge of your roof. Clogging and blockage triggers a backup of rain water in your gutters, causing shingles along the outer rim of your roof to rot. Watch for these shingles to curl and disintegrate much quicker.
- Gutters sag or have begun to pull away from the house**
Gutters should never sag or pull away from the home. This can indicate that the gutters are full of water and pulling away from the house due to the weight. A full gutter means that the gutter system may not be appropriate for the home.
- Do your gutters clog often?**
How often are you having to get out the ladder and fix the clogged areas of your gutters? Gutters should be flowing freely without interruption. If you are fixing clogs then there is a flow or routing issue that needs addressed.
- Are you getting water in your basement or crawl space?**
Gutters are designed with the purpose of keeping water flowing away from your home's foundation. If you notice water in your basement or crawl space, this could be a sign your gutters are not working as intended.
- Are there any crushed pipes or missing downspouts?**
If you are missing downspouts or have crushed outlets, this can cause issues around your foundation or yard erosion issues.
- Water damage or water marks directly beneath the gutters.**
Water damage or marks underneath the gutter indicate the water is escaping the gutter. This type of water intrusion can damage your soffit and fascia board.

Remember, gutters play an important role in your homes design. Properly functioning gutters direct water away from the exterior walls, windows, doors and foundation, preventing water problems inside the house. Although cleaning the gutters will help to enhance their operation, broken or worn gutters need to be repaired or replaced in order to protect your living space and retain its property value.

