

ORIGINAL vs. REPLACEMENT GUTTER INSTALLATIONS

The SpoutOff Gutter Installation Guide



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GUTTER INSTALLATIONS

UNFORTUNATELY when a new home is built, rain gutters are given little thought. Often gutters are the last product to be installed and, too often, they are installed in a manner least expensive to the builder.

Conscientious professional rain gutter installers generally agree that the size of the outlet (hole in gutter at top of the downspout) and the number of downspouts are the “key” to best gutters performance. That is, the more downspouts with the largest outlets will ensure gutters move more water, faster and more efficiently out of the gutters and away from the home or building.

The problem, stated above, is that the least number of downspouts are often installed with new installations. Also, the size of the gutters and downspouts may not be the proper size for a new home. For example, a new home with very large roofs and/or very steep pitched roofs may have 5 inch gutters with 2×3 downspouts installed where 6 inch gutters with 3×4 downspouts would best serve that house. Not good!

YOUR REPLACEMENT OPPORTUNITY:

So when new gutters are needed, use your professional installer as a reference and use your own common sense. Ask your installer for advice. Ask, “If this was your house, what size gutters and downspouts would you install; and how many and where would you install the downspouts?” This is your opportunity to maximize the efficiency of your rain gutter system. Take a little time, a walk around your house and think about the configuration . . . it’s easy and it is smart!

GENERAL RULES FOR RAIN GUTTER INSTALLATION:

During your planning you need to think carefully about where you want the water to go – the whole point of gutters is to divert the water away from any areas it could cause damage to a places where it won’t cause any harm – where are those places? It could be a drain, a ditch or even storage (rain barrel) so you can use the rainwater later to irrigate your garden for example.

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When it comes to size, a homeowner will have to choose their gutter size (the measurement of the top opening), downspout size (length and width), and thickness.

- The most common gutter sizes are 5 inches and 6 inches.
- Downspouts are commonly 2×3 inches and 3×4 inches.
- Thickness 0.027 to 0.032.

When determining the size of a home's gutter system, a homeowner should also consider the area's rainfall density. Such facts can usually be found on gutter supply websites. A home that sees a lot of rain or has a large roof and/or a steeply pitched roof should have a larger gutter system.

Calculate downspout size:

Outlets/downspouts can handle about 100 square feet of watershed area per square inch. Round the watershed area up to the next even 100, then divide by 100 to determine the minimum square inches of outlet/downspouts size required.

For example, a 1,500 square foot watershed area (30 x 50 ft. roof area) needs at least 15 square inches of outlet and downspout. A 2×3 inch outlet/downspout has a 6 square inch cross section ($2 \times 3 = 6$) while a 3×4 inch outlet/downspout has a 12 square inch cross section. In this example, you need three 2×3 inch outlets/downspouts (a total of 18 square inch cross section) or two 3×4 inch outlets/downspouts (24 square inch total cross section) to equal the minimum 16 square inches required.

Spacing and size of outlet openings:

A gutter can never be any more effective than the size of the outlet and the number of downspouts selected to drain it.

REMEMBER:

When it comes to rain gutters, gutter outlets and downspouts — bigger is better and more downspouts are smarter!