



## ANNUAL GUTTER MAINTENANCE GUIDE

To avoid problems in the gutters and downspouts, homeowners should make a simple investment —invest one Saturday each Fall and another each Spring to gutter maintenance —spending time inspecting, cleaning, and repairing the gutters and downspouts, to avoid damage, such as roof rot and peeling paint.

Gutter Defects



### When There Is a Problem

The purpose of gutters is to catch precipitation flowing off the roof and direct it to the downspouts, which disperse it away from the house. Pools of water that collect near the foundation, streaked house paint, wet basements or ridges in the ground may all be indicators that the gutters are not working properly. A quick inspection may turn up a simple blockage problem, such as leaves or a stray baseball lodged in the gutter. From there it is easy to remove the blockage and relieve the problem.

### Maintenance & Inspection Ideas

Bi-annual inspection and maintenance go a long way to preventing any serious problem. Each Spring and Fall, remove all leaves and visible debris from the gutter using a whiskbroom and a garden hose. If downspouts need cleaning, snake the hose down the spout and turn on the nozzle full blast. A plumber's snake may also be used for this purpose. Use screen-type covers designed to fit over the opening of downspouts to catch the leaves at the opening so they do not inch down the spout and cause blockage.

For galvanized gutters, paint surfaces as needed on the outside and coat the insides with liquid asphalt roofing cement every three years. If using regular house paint on the outside of the gutter, the homeowner should prime the surface with a metal undercoat first. If the gutters are brand new, degrease the metal with vinegar and water or allow them to weather for six months before painting. Aluminum gutters do not need to be painted.



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## Life Expectancies ... Exterior Systems

<b>Gutters &amp; Down spouts</b>	<b>Years</b>
Aluminum	15 - 25
Galvanized	15 - 22
Copper	35 - 60
P. V. C.	25 +
<b>Window Systems</b>	<b>Years</b>
Wood	35 - 100
Aluminum	10 - 25
Vinyl	20 +
Aluminum Storm	30 - 40
<b>Roofing Systems</b>	<b>Years</b>
Fiberglass reinforced asphalt shingles	15 - 25
3-ply or 4-ply Built-up roofing	10 - 15
Metal	50 - 90
Cedar	20 - 50
Slate	35 - 200

These life expectancy projections are based on averages and an assumption of routine maintenance. Factors that impact these ranges include: workmanship and installation quality, proper usage, geography, weather conditions and exposure to fuels, water and air.

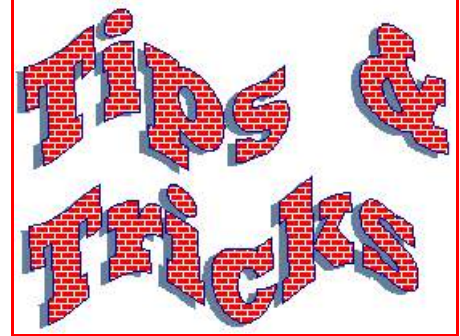
## HOME INSPECTION NIGHTMARES!



### Cooking & Cleaning

I love my job. Always something new. I have NEVER seen this before—a dishwasher installed directly under an electric cooktop that's right up against the refrigerator. You can cook and wash dishes at the same time! A great way to make the "kitchen work triangle" more efficient!

*courtesy of the ASHI Reporter*



### Protect your car doors

Attach strips of left over carpet to the wall of your garage so that you don't ding your door when you open it.

### Electronics

Save used fabric dryers sheets to remove dust and static from TVs, mirrors and computer screens.

### Power Problems

Do not plug a freezer or refrigerator into a GFI outlet. If the GFI trips or there is a power outage and outlet is not reset, you may not be aware that your appliance is not working until the food spoils!

### Halloween Treat

Leftover Halloween snickers bars make a delicious dessert. Simply chop them up with the food chopper. Peel, core and slice a few apples. Place them in a baking dish and sprinkle the chopped candy bars over the apples. Bake at 350° for 15 minutes. Serve alone or with vanilla ice cream. Yummm!



Erick - Pete - Jim - Laurie