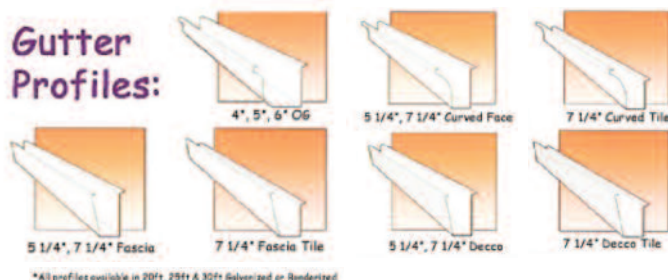


# SIZE really does matter

When it comes to securing your most expensive investment, your home, it's important to select the right size gutters. Without gutters and downspouts rainwater or melting snow will roll off your roof and pool at the foundation of your home exposing you to harmful mold, erosion and a leaky basement.

Whether you have just purchased a new home or remodeling your current home you should take into consideration these very important factors when selecting your gutters. First, you will need to select the type of gutter. Seamless gutters are most commonly used as they provide cosmetic benefits of no unsightly seams and come in a variety of colors to match the color of your roof or trim of your home. Then, you will need to select the type of material. There are several options; steel, aluminum, vinyl or copper. Aluminum is the most common used material for its strength, durability, and economic factors. The gauge of the aluminum dictates its durability and in this part of the country I would not suggest anything less than .032 gauge.

Whether you choose steel, aluminum, vinyl or copper you will also need to pick a profile.



The most common style in this part of the country is K-style (also known as ogee) which accounts for approximately 80% of the market. There are several other styles to choose from such as Plain fascia (also known as square), Curved fascia (also known as round), and Decco fascia.

Lastly and most importantly is selecting the correct size gutters. Though 5 and 6 inch gutters are the industry standards, several factors can determine whether your home might need a larger gutter. The terms "5-inch" and "6-inch" refer to the width across the top of the gutter. And in most cases, these sizes are sufficient to drain water away from your house. But two factors might argue for a 7-inch gutter. One, if you live in an area of the country that's subject to steady drenching rains or sudden torrential downpours. Two, if your home has multiple rooflines and numerous roof valleys. As homes have become larger across American so has the roofs which in turns mean more roof area that must be drained.

The procedure for sizing your gutters, downspouts, and leaf protection is truly based on the calculation of roof size, slope, and your area's rainfall intensity. This determines the gutter and downspout size as well as the type of leaf protection needed to move the water away from the foundation of your home. Keeping your basement dry begins with the gutters and downspouts, but keeping them clog free is the trick. If your gutters are prone to leaves, sticks, and other debris but you cannot clean them regularly, you should consider a form of gutter protection. Leaf Hoodie™ eliminates climbing up on a dangerously high ladder and

the annual cleaning of the gutters and downspouts. As gutters are not a "one size fits all proposition" neither is gutter protection. Leaf Hoodie™ is a custom made product manufactured in Erie, PA and follows the same concept in determining gutter size with the offering of various nose radius' to fit the gutter and roof slope properly. American Heated Gutter Systems has taken it one step further than the competitors with the addition of Heater Hoodie™. This exclusive product was invented originally for the Erie area. It is uniquely different from just a heating wire on the roof; the thermostatically controlled heating elements are positioned between the gutter hood and another piece of aluminum on top which protects the wires from all types outside elements. The heating elements in the gutter, hood, and downspouts keep the aluminum warm to melt the snow and ice continuously so your gutters and downspouts can move the water away from the foundation of your home.... keeping your basement dry.

So, "Determining the optimal gutter size for your home — as well as the required number and size of the downspouts needed—is where a professional installer can be a help. They can calculate the rainfall against the square footage and slope of your roof. They can determine the weight of water that a given section of gutter must hold, and thus the number and spacing of the hangers needed to hold up the gutter. Likewise, the installer can ensure the gutter system is properly installed so that backups, blockages, ice damming, and other problems don't skew the calculations and cause overflows. And finally, if a larger gutter size and extra downspouts are needed, the installer can find ways to balance function and appearance—perhaps using colors that blend in with your home—so that the gutters don't dominate the exterior of your house. You wouldn't put a Smart car® tire on a Ford F250 truck would you? So don't put the wrong size gutter or gutter protection on your home or business. Consult with a professional for expert advice in determining the size of gutter, because size does matter!

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