

==== Everything you need to know about ====

# Gutters



Alco Products Inc

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# Chapter 1

## Introduction

During our 58 years in the home improvement industry, we have noticed that one of the most overlooked aspects of a home is gutters. Gutters and downspouts play a critical role in protecting your home, and when setup properly along with a home's roof, can prevent erosion, landscape damage, foundation damage, as well as water getting into your home.

Replacing your gutters is not the most intrusive exterior home remodel, but can be crucial in keeping your home dry. With that said, it can still be difficult to navigate the world of gutters as there are various options and styles available to the homeowner.

# Chapter 2

## Types of Gutters

Before discussing the various types of gutters, it is important to understand the different styles. The two most popular styles of gutters we have found is “box-style” and “k-style”. Box style gutters carry more water but can maintain a lower profile. Because of their shape (more like a box), you can apply oversized downspouts onto a 5 inch gutter, instead of a bigger 6 inch. In essence, box-style gutters can carry more water at a smaller size. K-style gutters are what most people think of when they think of gutters. K-style gutters do a fine job of carrying water when installed properly, but it is in a homeowners better interest to get a 6 inch gutter instead of a 5 inch to maximize flow.

Now that we have gone over the various styles of gutters, we can talk about the different types. Gutters come in a variety of different materials, including vinyl, steel, aluminum, and copper. Vinyl gutters are the cheapest option, and can come in a variety of colors. They also are easy to maintain, and do not easily chip, dent, or corrode. Steel gutters are your next option, although more expensive then vinyl. They are arguably the sturdiest of the four types, but will require the most maintenance. They are also susceptible to rust if water does not drain properly. Aluminum gutters are the complete opposite, and will not rust. They can also come segmented or seamless.

# Chapter 2

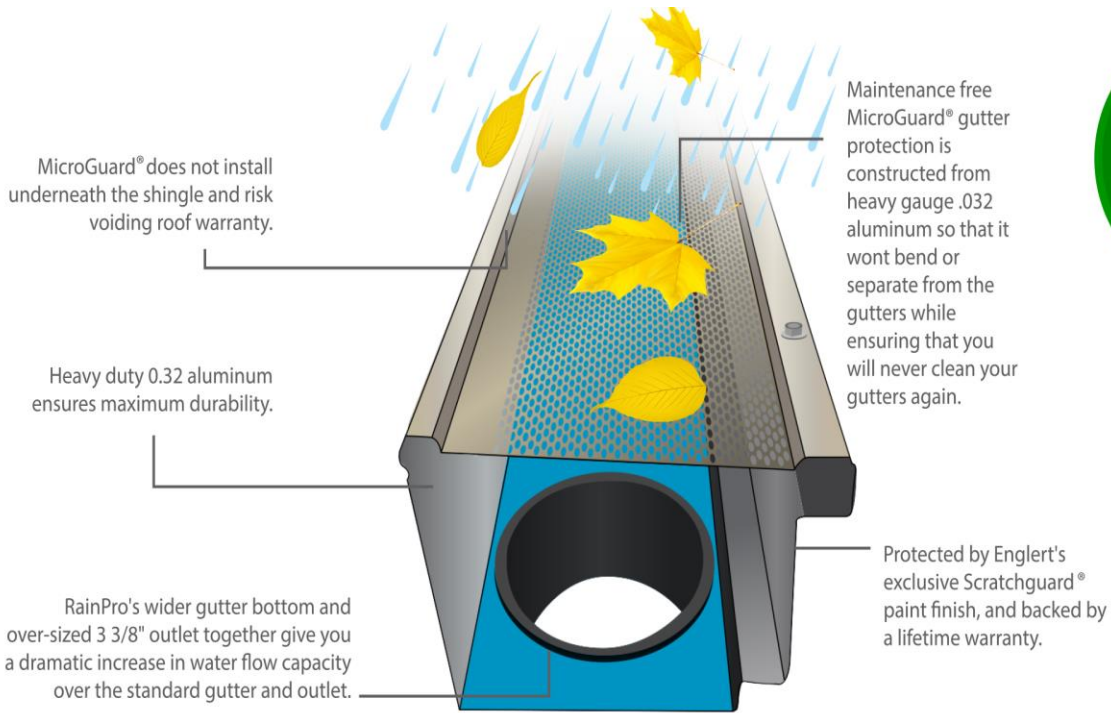
## Types of Gutters

They can bend under heavy weight though, so not the best option if you have a lot of falling tree branches around your home. Copper gutters are the last and most expensive option, but are arguably the most attractive. They have a long lifespan, and will oxidize to a mint green. One of your biggest concerns with copper gutters however, is thieves. People will steal copper and sell it for cash, so make sure to have some form of a security system! One option to consider no matter what type of gutter you get; some form of gutter screen or cover. There are certain products available to screen away leaves and debris, preventing clogged gutters. Remember gutters are only effective when they are clear and let water flow properly.

# Chapter 3

## Leaf Protection

One of the most overlooked aspect of gutters is leaf protection. When gutters are placed on a home without leaf protection, overtime they will collect leaves, twigs, and other debris that clog the gutters. If your gutters are not cleared out and a big storm hits, water will flow overtop of the gutters and potentially damage your home. If you do not have leaf protection, than it is necessary to clean your gutters out multiple times during the year, which takes time and money. There are now products available that go on over top of the gutters and act as a screen of sorts, preventing debris from entering your gutters but allowing water to pass through. Personally, we recommend the Rainpro Microguard as we find it more durable and sturdy than other leaf guard options. With leaf protection over top of your gutters, you can rest assured that your gutters are remaining clear and performing at their optimal capacity.



Heavy-duty internal gutter hangers give your gutter system maximum strength and durability, yet are completely concealed from view.

An artists rendition of the Rainpro Microguard system. Notice how the screen lies on top of the gutter, allowing water to pass but preventing debris from entering the gutters.

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Want to

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# Learn More?

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Interested in learning more about gutters?  
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call at 301-593-1691 to speak to an Alco  
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