



*Dealing with clogged, broken, or failing gutters is not just a hassle. It's time-consuming, dirty, and at times even dangerous.*

T H E 7 B E N E F I T S O F

# Adding Gutter Guards to Your Home



Plus, when you know it's time to replace those gutters altogether.



Your home should be the place you long to get back to. It's where your favorite people are. It's where memories are made.

Maintaining your home is also a lot of work. Don't get me wrong, it's totally worth it.

But the list of things to fix, change, and clean never seems to get smaller.

Here at FM Exteriors, we serve homeowners in a variety of ways. From roofing, to siding, to gutters, everything we do is designed to help you transform a house you like into a home you love.

## **Dealing with clogged, broken, or failing gutters is not just a hassle. It's time-consuming, dirty, and at times even dangerous.**

You're looking to cross things off your to do list, not heap more on it.

That's the reason I created this guide. Having dependable gutters and guards to keep them working properly all year round is something every homeowner needs.

My team and I see time and time again the warning signs that signal that it may be time to re-evaluate your home's gutter system. In this guide, we want to share with you the benefits of paying attention to those warning signs before things get worse.

I hope it's a resource that saves you time and effort on your journey to keeping that house a home your entire family love for years to come.



*DJ Ficken*

DJ Ficken, Owner, FM Exteriors



 **You Alleviate Blockages**

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 **You Reduce Maintenance**

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 **You Avoid Risk**

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 **You Prevent Water Damage**

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 **You Lessen the Impact of Ice Dams**

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 **You Get Rid of Pests**

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 **You Ditch Unsightly Stains**

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**PRO TIPS:**

Learn professional insights to help smooth out the process.





1

## You Alleviate Blockages

Clogged gutters are an absolute pain. Water always finds the path of least resistance. I see it all the time. It means that system is full of leaves and debris and will inhibit flow and send that water right over the top onto whatever is below. This can have disastrous consequences on landscaping, paint, or even lead to interior water damage in your home.



### **Something to Consider:**

If you never notice overflowing water, but just had a large storm come through...you may just have a limb or other debris that needs to be removed.



This is the biggest reason so many homeowners we know choose to protect their home with gutter guards



2

## ✔ You Reduce Maintenance

When you have the right system covering your gutters, it reduces your maintenance big time! I've found that "set it and forget it" projects are the best kind of home investments you can make. With gutter guards, you're not having to drag that ladder out over and over again.

You're also not helplessly stuck inside during a nasty storm watching clogged gutters overflow onto your brand new garden bed. If you find yourself spending way too much time fixated on your gutters, it's probably time to consider having someone professionally install high quality gutter guards on your home.

### ✔ Save Time

You're not up on that ladder all day

### ✔ Put Money Back In Your Pocket

You're not paying someone else to clean those gutters anymore

### ✔ Erase the Stress

Stop worrying that the next big Midwest storm is going to cause major damage



### PRO TIP:

If you think your home may also need new gutters, along with the guards to cover them, I've added a handy checklist of things to consider at the very end of this resource.



## ✓ You Avoid Risk

Whether it's getting stuck on the roof because you can't get back down, or the ladder isn't secure once you start to climb, everyone's likely had at least one scare. The reality is ladders can be dangerous. Every year **over 200,000 accidents** happen from people using them.



*I knew they happened, but honestly this stat always surprises me a bit. Who would have guessed? -DJ*

And here's the beauty of gutter guards. They serve as a protective covering against debris and build up which eliminates the need for pulling out that ladder yet again to clean up those exposed gutters.



### Ladder Safety Tip:

If you end up deciding to keep your gutters exposed, here are some suggestions to make your work atop a ladder as safe as possible.

- Inspect your ladder for damage before using
- Ensure the ladder's feet are secure on level ground
- Ensure your ladder has 3 rungs over the top of the gutter
- Always face the ladder
- Wear the right shoes
- Avoid using it in bad weather (even if your gutters look like Niagara Falls)
- Secure your ladder to the gutter with a rope or bungee cord for added protection

## ✓ You Prevent Water Damage

Clogged or broken gutters don't properly channel water away from your house. When things back up, the overflow often lands close to your home's foundation. Over time, or during intense storms, this can lead to water damage in your basement or crawl space.

A properly functioning and covered gutter system doesn't just reduce maintenance. It's an investment that's actively protecting your home year round.

Water Away From  
Your Home = GOOD

Water Under Your  
Home = BAD

### PRO TIP:

Our region is prime territory for storm and hail damage. If you think a recent storm may have damaged your gutters, you need to know how to proceed. Check out our full guide called [9 Things To Know When Filing A Hail Claim On Your Home](#).

Hail damage to your gutters is never fun, but this resource will help you make an informed decision.



## ✓ You Lessen the Impact of Ice Dams

An ice dam is the result of melting snow under a snow pack that reaches the eave of your house and then refreezes. This puts tremendous pressure on your gutters. Here is where the big problem lies. When that ice dam gets big enough, the melted water has no where to go and seeps underneath the shingles of your roof causing significant damage.

Professionally installed gutters protected with gutter guards prevent the build up of debris throughout the year that would further impede crucial water flow during those snow storms.

A properly functioning gutter system doesn't fully eliminate the potential for ice dams, but it's a huge preventative measure that pays off time and time again.



## ✓ You Get Rid of Pests

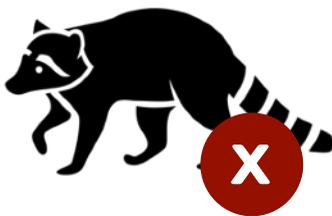
It may sound crazy, but clogged gutters can be a haven for all sorts of pests. The reality is standing water is a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Built up debris is a welcome site for bugs, spiders, and all sorts of rodents. And exposed gutters without proper guards in place provide access to your attic for animals like squirrels, racoons, and possums.

These pests pose all sorts of health risks to your family and can wreak havoc in all sorts of places throughout your home once they get in.

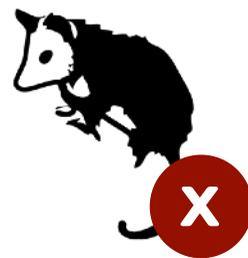
Professionally installed and covered gutters stop them before they even get started.



**Squirrel**



**Racoons**



**Opossums**

*Ensure they don't find a new cozy place to live.*

## ✓ You Ditch Unsightly Stains

Once gutters are overburdened with debris, that water simply has nowhere else to go. As rain water runs back toward your house, it leaves stains, peeled paint, and even mold or mildew in its wake. This is a huge eye sore and incredibly difficult to clean.



### PRO TIP:

New gutter guards will fix future water flow problems and prevent further stains and ugly marks. They don't help clean the stains you're already stuck with though. Here are a few ideas that may help.

- Pressure wash the affected area
- A simple solution of water and white vinegar often works well for cleaning gutters. It may also help with stained areas beneath the gutters as well.
- If the affected area happens to be delicate or requires special care, research appropriate cleaning measures before starting. instructions or seek



## Is it time to pair those gutter guards with a whole new set of gutters?



Gutter guards offer so many benefits. Over time, you save money, eliminate so many headaches and even improve your property value. But, these protective covers only work well with properly functioning gutters.

If you see any of these issues forming, these are warning signs that it's likely time to go ahead and replace those gutters too.

- Cracks
- Holes
- Rust Spots
- Sagging Sections
- Pooling Water Caused By Improper Pitching
- Sections Pulling Away From Your Roof
- Rotting Fascia
- Eroded Soil Or Landscaping



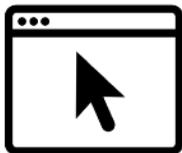
# Schedule An Appointment

If you see any of these issue forming with your existing gutters, it's time to get them taken care of. Your home's gutters serve so many essential functions. When working properly, they are a huge ally in the fight against protecting your home from the elements.

Your house is more than just another place. It's where you make memories, and spend time with the ones you care about most.

Ditch the stress of continually worrying about your gutters. We have worked with thousands of homeowners like you. Everyone needs a reputable contractor they can count on to keep their home a place they love.

Let's ensure you have a home that will stand the test of time.



**Schedule An Appointment:**  
[fmexteriorsstl.com](http://fmexteriorsstl.com)



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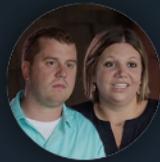


**Ditch the stress of  
continually worrying  
every time it rains.**





*“FM Exteriors gave us peace of mind  
that everything was going to be  
taken care of.”*



**Shawn and Erin**  
**St Louis Home Owner**