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Water can flood the foundation, basement or crawl spaces of a home, and cause erosion and permanent damage to the structure. This makes it essential to have a system that keeps water away from important home parts. Rain gutters are a fairly inexpensive way to protect the structure of a home and ensure a solid foundation.

Protection against water damage is crucial in the care and maintenance of your property. Rain gutters aid in this process; they fit in the sides of your roof and direct the water through a system of troughs and downspouts to keep it from accumulating on the roof. Gutters also prevent water from pooling around your house and seeping to its foundations.

Rain Gutter Materials

Rain gutters are made of different materials. The four most common are PVC, aluminum, galvanized steel and copper. There are also wood choices available, but wood gutters are generally considered passÃ©.

Among the three, PVC gutters are the least expensive and the easiest to work with because they can fit any house size and come in many color choices. Aluminum and galvanized steel gutters cost more, but they last longer and can be painted to match the trim of your house. Copper gutters are the most expensive but they conduct heat well and help with the ice buildup, so they are the excellent choice for Michigan homeowners.

Rain Gutter Types

There are two main types of rain gutters sold by gutters Lansing MI contractors. First is the sectional gutter type which are fitted together and attached with snap-on pieces that connect the gutters and downspouts into a custom arrangement. The second is the seamless gutter system, which are custom-ordered to fit your home.

Inspection and Maintenance

Rain gutters are easy to maintain and only need to be cleaned and inspected at least twice a year. Cleaning involves removing debris and leaves and washing them away with a high- pressure hose. If you have several trees around your property, you might need to clean your gutter more often. You can also consider gutter protection devices that cover the opening of the gutter. Gutter protection devices let water in but let the debris fall over the edge of your roof. Ask your gutters Grand Rapids MI contractor for more information on these devices.

When properly installed by your gutters Michigan contractor, your rain gutters will make your home look better, prolong the life of your foundation and prevent huge repair costs. Learn more about rain gutters from wisegeek.com.

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