Regular maintenance of gutters essential by Mark Williams

Article published on April 14th 2012 | Home Improvement

There are several homes that have broad overhangs built into their roofs which prevent any water from accumulating on it. While these homes have nothing much to worry about, those who have the gutter system of water drainage on their roofs have to be vigilant about its maintenance. Having a gutter and an attached downspout is what will catch any amount of water and move it away from your roof. This is essential, else you can end up with water trickling down your walls and your windows, causing damage to your home and its foundation.

Ideally, a minimum of twice a year you should check your gutters to ensure that they are not leaking in any way or have anything blocking the free movement of water. Most gutters are attached to a wooden frame called the fascia board. You will be climbing up a ladder to check on the status of the gutter; while at it look at the fascia and ensure that the wood is not rotting or breaking away. Depending on what material your gutter is made of, there are things you need to look out for.

Take steel for example, it may be durable, but over the long run it tends to rust and this can damage it. if needed you will have to replace it. If the gutter is made of plastic, exposure the elements for a long time can cause it to degrade in some places. You will have to check the length of the gutter for damage. Aluminium gutters are quite popular and often put together on the site itself to ensure that it is seamless. This is one structure that will give you minimal trouble. Nevertheless, it is important that you look into it. Wood is also a form of gutter usage, but this is in homes that are bordering on ancient. Replacing them completely would be a good idea.

If you are a DIY kind of person, then you will want to do small patch work jobs yourself. However, keep in mind that you will be working off a ladder and will need to be careful. Make sure that you have all the materials you need when you go up the ladder. Depending on the size of the hole you may be trying to patch, you will need anything from some putty to complete sheets to get the job done.

If you are inexperienced with this kind of work, it would be best to call in the professionals, else you can end up seriously injured or with more damage than you bargained for.

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Article Keywords:
roof contractor,roof contractor dallas.plano roof repair

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