

I take pride in my gutter brilliance



Low-maintenance roofline products are the way ahead, especially in difficult-to-reach areas such as the eaves and guttering.

Only a very keen person gets up a ladder and paints their eaves and roofline every seven years.

Wilson's Seamless Aluminium Guttering comes with a 30-year life expectancy.

Once fitted, you can pretty much forget about it. Find out more by calling 01236 610743 or at www.wilsons-seamlessguttering.co.uk.

Or you could opt for traditional plastic roofline eaves and guttering from companies such as Advanced Group, on 0500 388 488.

Continuous seamless aluminium guttering originated in Canada/USA in the 1920s.

The 1990s saw rapid growth in its use across Europe. The gutter is

Make life easier... with the latest low-maintenance roofline products you can throw away that brush and ladders

rolled and formed on site from a pre-coated aluminum coil to the required length (up to 30 metres).

Because of the low expansion of aluminum, it is only necessary to introduce a movement joint in runs longer than 30 metres, which limits squeaks and creaks.

It comes in a range of colours – usually brown, black and white.

Plastic, or the more expensive cast guttering, are fixed to the roofline with a large number of component parts. Most companies that are used to working with UPVC also offer roofline products that eliminate maintenance, but make sure you go with a reputable firm such as Perfect Glazing, tel 0800 032 2711 or

Dalmation windows, tel 0800 652 3545. Their quality roofline products come with a 10-year insurance-backed guarantee.

Make sure the work is carried out properly by expert installers.

Poorly fitted guttering can easily be disturbed or dislodged, especially if ladders hit them, causing you all sorts of bother.

Aluminum guttering is powder-coated so the paint is guaranteed not to flake or discolour for 30 years. And it will stand up to extreme temperatures and the worst the Scottish climate can throw at it.

Most people are not overjoyed at the prospect of climbing ladders and aluminium guttering can solve this problem, too.

It has a continuous guttering guard, which provides complete protection from debris, such as leaves. It makes you wonder why nobody came up with this before, especially for high-level roofs.

Granted, the installation cost is slightly more expensive than plastic guttering, but take into consideration its low maintenance and durability before making a final decision.

Put simply, with this system you can fit and forget. Job done.

RELEVANT PRODUCT

Danish oil

This soaks in and hardens below the surface, unlike varnish which dries to a solid barrier on top. Use oil for a water-resistant finish that leaves the original texture and grain as nature intended. It is food-safe and non-toxic, so is perfect for worktops and chopping boards.

DONNY'S

LITTLE HELPER

Draining shovel
Digging holes for fence posts or decking can be a back-breaking nightmare, so do yourself a favour and invest in a draining shovel. It is a narrow, long shovel, traditionally used for digging ditches, trenches and drainage channels. It is ideal for making straight-sided holes, perfect for posts.

Slip sliding away on our new rug

Q How do I stop my hall rug moving? I've had carpets fitted all over the house and a smaller one made to go in the hall for muddy feet. The mat keeps slipping on the big one and gets caught in the door. Any ideas?

A Plane the door to allow for clearance but I'm afraid there's not much you can do about the movement. Maybe you should just take your shoes off.

Q What are the dark marks on the wallpaper above one radiator? We have lath and plaster walls.

A If you dry clothes on the radiator, stop. The wall can deteriorate with constant

damp from drying clothes. Stripping and re-plastering is the only answer.

Q My son lives in a four-storey tenement and the paint on the top portion of the stairwell is peeling and bubbling up. How do we solve this?

A Internal tenement walls are only a half a brick thick so if the adjacent bathroom is not tiled or sealed properly, the water shows up in the close, causing the type of damage you described. Approach the residents on the other side – it may be their shower.

Q The plug hole in my 14-month-old bath is starting to rust. Can I

replace it or do I need a new bath?

A You just need to replace the plug. It's not difficult if you can access the underside of the bath by removing the panel. Most wholesalers supply plugs.

Q The water in our wetroom has been seeping through the bottom of the shower screen. We've replaced the sealant twice but it's no better. I worry it will seep through, damage the under-floor heating and go mouldy. What is the best way to fix this?

A Wet rooms are fully tanked – that is waterproofed – so there is no danger of the water seeping through. Don't worry

too much about the under-floor heating as it is well protected. Your problem is with water seeping under the screen. Reseal it but it's more irritating than a serious worry.

Q I have damp stains on my extension ceiling roof, caused by bad weather and a flat roof. I tried painting them with a stain sealer but it didn't work. The marks are fairly noticeable now. How to do I treat the stain?

A Paint alone will not solve the problem of water ingress. Solve the source of the dampness first, which might mean having the roof re-covered. Once you have done that, you can re-paint.