OTTAWA EAVESTROUGHS

Eavestrough Installation

New eavestrough system installation including seamless aluminum, copper, and steel options, proper sizing for Ottawa's rainfall and snowfall, hanger spacing for snow loads, and slope requirements for effective drainage.

26 Expert Answers from Gutter IQ

ottawaeavestroughs.com/construction-brain

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Q1

How do I calculate the total drainage capacity I need from my eavestrough downspouts in Ottawa?

Proper downspout sizing is critical in Ottawa because our intense summer thunderstorms can dump 25 to 50 millimetres of rain in under an hour, while inadequate drainage leads to eavestrough overflow that damages fascia boards and foundations.

The calculation starts with your roof's drainage area, measured in square feet. For a simple gabled roof, multiply the length times width of your home's footprint. For complex rooflines with dormers, additions, or multiple levels, calculate each section separately and add them together. A typical Ottawa bungalow might have 1,200 to 1,800 square feet of roof area, while a two-storey home often ranges from 1,500 to 2,500 square feet.

Ottawa's rainfall intensity factor is 4.5 inches per hour for design purposes, which accounts for our most severe summer storms. To calculate required downspout capacity, multiply your roof area by 0.623, then multiply by 4.5. For example, a 1,500 square foot roof needs 4,205 gallons per hour of drainage capacity (1,500 × 0.623 × 4.5 = 4,205). Each standard 3-inch round downspout handles approximately 1,200 gallons per hour, while 4-inch downspouts manage about 2,000 gallons per hour.

This means our example home needs at least four standard downspouts, though **five downspouts would provide better performance during extreme weather events**. The Ontario Building Code requires downspouts at maximum 40-foot intervals, but Ottawa contractors typically recommend 30-foot spacing for superior drainage and reduced ice dam risk.

Downspout Placement and Sizing Strategy

Beyond total capacity, downspout placement affects system performance significantly. **Each downspout should serve no more than 600 to 800 square feet of roof area** to prevent overwhelming individual drain points during intense rainfall. Place downspouts at natural low points in your eavestrough run, typically at building corners where the fascia provides strong mounting support.

Consider upgrading to **4-inch downspouts on steep roofs or large drainage areas** above 800 square feet per downspout. The larger diameter costs only 50 to 100 dollars more per downspout installed but dramatically improves flow capacity. Rectangular downspouts (2×3 inch or 3×4 inch) offer similar capacity to round downspouts while providing a more streamlined appearance against the building.

Ottawa's clay-heavy soil drains poorly, making proper downspout discharge critical for foundation protection. Each downspout must direct water at least 1.8 metres from the foundation, preferably onto a splash pad or into an underground drainage system that connects to the street or a suitable drainage area.

For complex calculations or homes with unusual rooflines, steep pitches above 8/12, or multiple roof levels, consulting with an experienced eavestrough contractor ensures proper sizing. The **Ottawa Construction Network directory at justynrookcontracting.com** includes contractors who can perform on-site drainage assessments and provide detailed capacity calculations for your specific home and roof configuration.

Q2

What is the minimum slope per foot needed for eavestroughs to drain properly in Ottawa?

Eavestroughs in Ottawa require a minimum slope of 1/4 inch per 10 feet of run toward the downspout for proper drainage. This translates to approximately 0.025 inches per linear foot, which is the standard across North America and specifically important in Ottawa's climate where proper water flow prevents ice dam formation and freeze damage.

The quarter-inch-per-10-feet rule ensures that water flows consistently toward downspouts rather than pooling in low spots where it can freeze during Ottawa's long winter season. **Standing water in eavestroughs becomes ice that expands and contracts through 50-plus freeze-thaw cycles each winter, stressing seams, hangers, and fascia mounting points.** Proper slope also helps debris wash out naturally during rainstorms rather than accumulating and creating clogs.

In Ottawa's extreme continental climate, achieving correct slope becomes even more critical because **thermal expansion and contraction can alter the original slope over time.** Aluminum eavestroughs expand approximately 1 millimetre per metre for every 10 degrees Celsius of temperature change. Over Ottawa's 65-degree annual temperature swing, a 10-metre eavestrough run can shift over 6 millimetres between winter and summer, potentially affecting drainage if the original slope was marginal.

Many budget installations or DIY attempts fail to achieve adequate slope, creating the number one eavestrough problem in the Ottawa market. Insufficient slope leads to standing water, accelerated corrosion, mosquito breeding, ice formation, and eventual overflow that damages fascia boards and foundations. Professional installers use string lines and levels to ensure consistent slope across the entire run.

For runs longer than 40 feet, **consider installing a downspout at each end and sloping the eavestrough toward both ends from a high point in the middle.** This approach maintains proper drainage on longer roof lines common on Ottawa's many bungalows and ranch-style homes.

When hiring a professional for eavestrough installation or repair, verify that proper slope is included in their quote and installation process. You can browse experienced eavestrough contractors through the Ottawa Construction

Network directory at justynrookcontracting.com to find professionals who understand Ottawa's specific drainage requirements.

Q3

Seamless vs Sectional Eavestroughs in Ottawa — Worth the Cost?

Yes, seamless eavestroughs are absolutely worth the extra cost in Ottawa, and they are the standard that the vast majority of professional eavestrough contractors in this region install. Ottawa's extreme climate makes the weaknesses of sectional gutters — primarily their seams — far more problematic than in milder parts of Canada, and the price difference is modest enough that seamless systems offer clearly better value over their lifespan.

Why Seams Fail in Ottawa's Climate

Sectional eavestroughs are assembled from pre-cut lengths, typically 10 feet each, joined together with connectors and sealed with gutter sealant at every joint. In a mild climate, these seams can last for years. In Ottawa, with over **50 freeze-thaw cycles per winter** and a total annual temperature swing exceeding **65 degrees Celsius**, the constant thermal expansion and contraction works the sealant at every seam relentlessly. Within 3 to 7 years, seam sealant in Ottawa typically cracks, separates, or fails, leading to drips that stain fascia boards, damage siding, and direct water toward your foundation.

A typical Ottawa bungalow with 130 linear feet of eavestrough would have **12 to 15 seams** in a sectional system. Each one is a potential failure point. Seamless eavestroughs, formed on-site from a continuous coil of aluminum using a portable roll-forming machine, eliminate all those mid-run joints. The only seams in a seamless system are at inside corners, outside corners, and downspout outlets — typically just **4 to 6 connection points** on the same home, each of which can be thoroughly sealed and inspected.

The cost difference in Ottawa is surprisingly small. Sectional aluminum eavestroughs run approximately **$5 to $10 per linear foot** for a DIY-installed system from a home improvement store, but once you factor in professional installation labour, the price gap narrows to roughly **$2 to $5 per linear foot** compared to seamless at **$8 to $18 per linear foot**. On a whole-house installation, you might save **$300 to $700** by choosing sectional — savings that evaporate with the first seam repair call at **$150 to $300** per visit.

Seamless eavestroughs also look cleaner, with no visible connector pieces breaking up the gutter line. They are available in over **30 factory-baked enamel colours** that match virtually any home exterior, and the finish is applied before forming, so there are no touch-up paint concerns at seam points.

The only scenario where sectional eavestroughs make practical sense in Ottawa is a very small project — a short run over a back door or garage entry where a single 10-foot section with no seams is sufficient. For whole-house installations, seamless aluminum is the clear choice for Ottawa homeowners. Browse eavestrough contractors who specialize in seamless installations through the Ottawa Construction Network directory at justynrookcontracting.com to get started with quotes.

Q4

Best Time of Year to Install Eavestroughs in Ottawa

The best time to install new eavestroughs in Ottawa is **late May through early October**, with the ideal sweet spot being **June and September** when weather is cooperative, contractor availability is reasonable, and your new system has time to settle before winter. However, the practical reality of Ottawa's eavestrough market means you should be booking your installation well before your preferred date, because the fall rush creates wait times of three to six weeks with most established contractors.

June is arguably the best single month for eavestrough installation in Ottawa. Spring rain has revealed any drainage problems with your current system, giving you clear information about what needs improvement. Temperatures are warm enough for sealants and caulking to cure properly — most eavestrough sealants require a minimum of **5 to 10 degrees Celsius** to bond effectively. The ground is dry and firm for safe ladder placement, and daylight hours are at their longest, allowing contractors to complete even large homes in a single day.

Why September Works Well

September offers similar advantages with the added urgency of preparing for winter. Ottawa's first frost typically arrives in late September or early October, giving a new installation several weeks to settle and have any minor adjustments made before freeze conditions begin. Sealant joints have time to fully cure, and you can verify proper slope and drainage during fall rains before snow arrives.

Avoid scheduling installation during November through March. Ottawa's winter temperatures regularly drop to **minus 20 to minus 30 degrees Celsius**, which makes sealants brittle and unreliable, metal contracts making precise fitting difficult, and working conditions on ladders become genuinely dangerous. Most Ottawa eavestrough contractors reduce or shut down installation work from December through March, though emergency repairs remain available.

April and early May are possible but come with challenges. Ottawa's spring thaw creates muddy, unstable ground conditions that make ladder placement risky. Temperatures can swing wildly — a 15-degree afternoon can follow a minus 5-degree morning — and sealants applied during these swings may not cure properly. If spring is your only option, wait until the ground has dried and overnight temperatures consistently stay above **5 degrees Celsius**.

From a pricing perspective, **early summer bookings** often get the best rates. The fall rush from September through October drives prices up by **10 to 15 percent** at some companies as demand peaks. Booking in May or June for a June or July installation lets you compare quotes when contractors are less pressured and more willing to compete on price. A complete seamless aluminum eavestrough system for a typical Ottawa bungalow runs **$1,500 to $3,000**, while a two-storey home with 150 to 200 linear feet typically costs **$2,500 to $5,000**.

To start gathering quotes for your eavestrough installation, the Ottawa Construction Network directory at **justynrookcontracting.com** connects you with local eavestrough contractors you can contact directly for free estimates.

Q5

Proper Eavestrough Slope — How to Check Yours in Ottawa

The proper slope for eavestroughs is **one-quarter inch of drop for every 10 feet of horizontal run** toward the nearest downspout. This translates to roughly a **half-inch drop over a 20-foot section** — enough grade to keep water moving steadily without being so steep that the gutter visually sags at the low end. For runs longer than 40 feet, most Ottawa contractors install the high point in the centre with a slope running down toward downspouts at both ends, keeping the maximum vertical drop at any single point to about one inch.

How to Check Your Slope

The simplest way to test your slope is with a **garden hose and a helper**. Position the hose at the farthest point from the downspout and let water run at a moderate flow. Walk along the eavestrough at ground level and watch for water movement. It should flow steadily toward the downspout without pooling anywhere in the middle. If water collects in visible puddles or moves sluggishly, your slope is insufficient. You can also check with a **4-foot level held inside the gutter** — the bubble should sit slightly off-centre toward the downspout end, not dead centre.

Ottawa's climate is particularly hard on eavestrough slope. The **50-plus freeze-thaw cycles each winter** cause fascia boards to flex, hanger screws to loosen in expanding and contracting wood, and ice loading to physically push sections downward. A system that was perfectly sloped at installation can lose its grade within **5 to 10 years** in Ottawa conditions. Heavy snow loads — wet snow weighing **200 to 500 kilograms per cubic metre** — compound the problem by bending hangers and pulling the gutter away from the fascia at its mounting points.

The consequences of improper slope go beyond simple pooling. Standing water in eavestroughs accelerates **corrosion of aluminum**, breeds mosquitoes in warmer months, and creates ice dams in winter as pooled water freezes and expands. In Ottawa's extreme cold, ice forming in a flat section can crack seams and split gutter joints, turning a slope problem into a leak problem by spring.

Re-sloping eavestroughs is a common repair that involves adjusting hanger positions along the run. On older homes with **spike-and-ferrule hangers**, the spikes are pulled, new pilot holes are drilled at the correct height, and the spikes are re-driven. On homes with modern **hidden clip hangers**, the clips are unscrewed and repositioned. A professional re-slope in Ottawa typically costs **$150 to $400 per run** depending on length and accessibility. While

handy homeowners can attempt this on single-storey homes with proper ladder safety, any work on two-storey homes or steep rooflines is best left to a professional with proper fall protection.

If your eavestroughs need re-sloping — especially if the hangers themselves are damaged or the fascia has softened from moisture exposure — connecting with an eavestrough contractor through the Ottawa Construction Network directory at **justynrookcontracting.com** ensures you get a proper assessment and competitive quotes from local professionals.

Q6

How Long Does Eavestrough Installation Take in Ottawa?

A typical eavestrough installation on an Ottawa home takes **one full day** for most single-storey or standard two-storey houses. A straightforward bungalow with **120 to 150 linear feet** of eavestrough, four to six downspouts, and no unusual roof geometry can often be completed in **4 to 6 hours** by an experienced two-person crew. A larger two-storey home with **150 to 200 linear feet**, more complex rooflines, dormers, or multiple levels typically takes **6 to 8 hours**, and very large or architecturally complex homes may stretch into a second day.

What Affects the Timeline

The biggest factor is **roof complexity**. A simple rectangular roofline with two straight runs along the front and back is fast work. Once you add hip roofs, valley intersections, dormers, bay windows, and covered porches, the crew needs to fabricate custom corners, mitre joints, and short connector runs that take more time to measure, cut, and seal. Many Ottawa homes in established neighbourhoods like Westboro, the Glebe, and Alta Vista have **multiple roof levels and varied angles** that can double the time compared to a straightforward suburban design.

The roll-forming process itself is efficient. The crew arrives with a **portable roll-forming machine** mounted on their truck or trailer, feeds flat aluminum coil stock through the machine, and produces seamless gutter sections cut to the exact length of each run. Forming a 30-foot section takes about **30 seconds**. The time is really spent on preparation and finishing — removing old eavestroughs, inspecting and repairing fascia board, installing hangers at the correct slope and spacing (**24 inches maximum in Ottawa, often 18 inches**), mounting the formed sections, cutting and connecting downspouts, and sealing every joint.

Old eavestrough removal adds **1 to 2 hours** depending on the system size and how it was originally attached. If the fascia board beneath has rotted — a common issue in Ottawa where ice dam moisture infiltrates the roof edge — fascia replacement adds significant time and cost. **Fascia repair runs $12 to $25 per linear foot** and should be completed before new eavestroughs go up.

Ottawa's weather also plays a role in scheduling. The optimal installation season runs from **May through October**, with fall being the busiest period as homeowners prepare for winter. Rain delays are common — sealant needs dry conditions to cure properly, and working on wet ladders and rooflines is unsafe. Smart scheduling means booking your installation for a forecasted dry stretch and having a contingency date in case of weather delays.

For the actual cost, a full installation on a standard Ottawa bungalow runs **$1,500 to $3,000** for aluminum, while a two-storey home typically costs **$2,500 to $5,000**. Getting multiple quotes is important — the Ottawa Construction Network directory at **justynrookcontracting.com** lists eavestrough professionals you can contact directly for estimates.

Q7

Remove Old Eavestroughs Before Installing New Ones? Ottawa Advice

You should **always remove the old eavestroughs before installing new ones** — installing over top of an existing system is not a legitimate practice and no reputable Ottawa eavestrough contractor would suggest it. The old gutters must come down so the installer can inspect the fascia board underneath, which is the structural mounting surface for the entire new system. If the fascia has soft spots, rot, or moisture damage — which is extremely common in Ottawa after years of ice dam exposure and freeze-thaw cycling — those problems need to be addressed before new eavestroughs go up.

Why Removal Is Non-Negotiable

The fascia board is the foundation of your eavestrough system. In Ottawa's climate, where **50-plus freeze-thaw cycles** push moisture into every gap and joint along the roof edge, fascia rot is one of the most frequently discovered issues during eavestrough replacement. Installing new gutters over a deteriorating fascia means the hanger screws are anchoring into compromised wood that will fail under Ottawa's heavy **snow loads of 200 to 500 kilograms per cubic metre**. Within a season or two, the new eavestroughs pull away from the roofline, and you have paid for an installation that needs to be redone.

Beyond fascia inspection, removing the old system allows the installer to **verify and correct the slope** to ensure proper drainage. Old hanger holes may not align with the new system's bracket positions, and the installer can fill old screw holes with exterior-grade wood filler or install backing blocks where the fascia is slightly thin. It also ensures the new eavestrough sits tight against the fascia with no gaps where wind-driven rain or snow melt can get behind it.

Removal of old eavestroughs is a standard part of any professional installation quote in Ottawa and typically adds **1 to 2 hours** to the job. Most contractors include removal and disposal in their per-linear-foot pricing of **$8 to $18 per foot** for seamless aluminum. When comparing quotes, confirm explicitly that the price includes **removal, disposal, fascia inspection, and any minor fascia repairs**. Some contractors quote the new installation separately and charge an additional **$2 to $4 per linear foot** for teardown and hauling, so make sure you are comparing total project cost.

If the fascia board needs replacing, expect an additional **$12 to $25 per linear foot** for new fascia installation. On an older Ottawa home with extensive fascia deterioration, this can add **$1,000 to $3,000** to the total project — but skipping it to save money virtually guarantees premature failure of the new system. Any contractor who offers to install over old eavestroughs or skip fascia inspection is cutting corners you will pay for later. The Ottawa Construction Network directory at **justynrookcontracting.com** is a good resource for finding eavestrough professionals who follow proper installation practices and provide detailed, transparent quotes.

Q8

How Seamless Eavestroughs Are Made On-Site in Ottawa

Seamless eavestroughs are manufactured right in your driveway using a **portable roll-forming machine** that the installation crew brings on their truck or trailer. The process is genuinely fascinating to watch and produces a superior product compared to pre-made sectional gutters. A flat coil of aluminum — typically **0.027-inch standard gauge or 0.032-inch premium gauge** — is loaded into one end of the machine, which contains a series of precisely shaped rollers. As the aluminum feeds through these rollers at a steady pace, each set bends the flat metal a little more until it emerges from the other end as a fully formed **K-style or half-round gutter profile**, custom-cut to the exact length of your roof run.

The On-Site Process

The roll-forming machine is about **6 to 8 feet long** and can produce continuous gutter sections up to **50 feet or more** without a single seam. This is the entire point of seamless eavestroughs — every seam in a gutter system is a potential leak point, and eliminating seams along the straight runs means the only joints are at **corners, end caps, and downspout outlets**. For a typical Ottawa bungalow with 120 to 150 linear feet of eavestrough, the crew might form just four to six continuous sections that cover the entire house.

The aluminum coil stock comes in **over 30 factory-baked enamel colours**, so the installer brings the colour you selected during quoting. The colour is baked into the aluminum at the factory — it is not painted on after forming — which means it resists chipping, peeling, and fading far better than painted sectional gutters. Popular colours for Ottawa homes include white, charcoal, dark brown, and clay, though matching to custom exterior colours is available through most suppliers.

Once the sections are formed, the crew carries them to the fascia and begins mounting. Each section is hung using **hidden clip hangers screwed into the fascia** at intervals of **24 inches or less** — many Ottawa contractors space them at 18 inches for extra resistance to snow loading. The installer sets the slope during hanger placement, typically **one-quarter inch of drop per 10 feet of run** toward the nearest downspout. Corners are fabricated on-site by cutting and folding mitre joints, which are then sealed with professional-grade gutter sealant. Downspout outlets are cut into the gutter bottom using a hole saw, and drop tubes connect the gutter to the vertical downspouts running to ground level.

The entire forming-and-installation process for a standard Ottawa home takes **4 to 8 hours** depending on roof complexity, at a cost of **$8 to $18 per linear foot** installed. The roll-forming equipment is specialized and expensive — it is not DIY-accessible — which is why seamless eavestrough installation is always a professional job. If you are ready to get quotes for seamless eavestroughs, the Ottawa Construction Network directory at **justynrookcontracting.com** lists local contractors who bring their own roll-forming equipment and can produce

your new system on-site.

Q9

Eavestrough Prep for New Builds in Riverside South Ottawa

Preparing for eavestrough installation on a new build in Riverside South requires coordination with your builder and a few specific considerations that are unique to new construction in Ottawa's expanding southern suburbs. The most important preparation step is ensuring the **fascia board is fully installed, painted or primed, and structurally sound** before the eavestrough crew arrives. On new builds, the fascia is typically installed by the framing crew and should be straight, level, and securely fastened to the rafter tails or lookout framing. Any warped or damaged fascia boards need replacing before eavestroughs go up — once the gutters are mounted, accessing the fascia becomes much more difficult.

Timing and Coordination on a New Build

Eavestrough installation on a new build falls near the **end of the exterior finishing sequence** — after roofing, siding, and soffit are complete but before final grading and landscaping. This timing matters because the downspout discharge points need to be established before the landscaper grades the lot and installs sod or paving. In Riverside South developments, where **clay-heavy Leda clay soil** drains poorly, getting downspout drainage right from the start is critical. Downspouts must extend at least **1.8 metres from the foundation** as required by the Ontario Building Code, and on new builds in Riverside South, many homeowners opt for **underground drainage pipes** routed to daylight at the lot line or connected to a dry well, running **$800 to $2,000** for a basic underground system.

Before the eavestrough crew arrives, verify with your builder that the **drip edge flashing is installed along the roof edge**. The drip edge directs water off the roof sheathing and into the gutter rather than behind it. On new construction, this is sometimes left for the eavestrough installer, but it should ideally be placed by the roofer as part of the roofing system. Also confirm that soffit panels and any required **soffit ventilation** are in place, since eavestrough mounting can interfere with soffit panel edges if the two systems are not coordinated.

For new builds in Riverside South specifically, consider requesting **6-inch K-style eavestroughs** instead of the standard 5-inch. Many newer homes in this area have larger roof footprints and steeper pitches that channel more water volume than older Ottawa home designs. The cost difference between 5-inch and 6-inch is modest — roughly **$2 to $4 more per linear foot** — and the increased capacity provides meaningful overflow protection during Ottawa's intense summer thunderstorms, which can deliver **25 to 40 millimetres of rain per hour**.

Ask your builder whether eavestroughs are included in the purchase price or if they are a homeowner responsibility. Many Riverside South builders include basic eavestroughs in the purchase price but may use lower-grade materials or wider hanger spacing to keep costs down. Having an independent eavestrough contractor install your system allows you to specify **premium 0.032-inch gauge aluminum, 18-inch hanger spacing for Ottawa snow loads, and gutter guards from the start**. A full system on a typical new build runs **$2,500 to $5,000** for quality seamless aluminum with proper Ottawa specifications. The Ottawa Construction Network directory at **justynrookcontracting.com** is a useful resource for finding independent eavestrough contractors who can work alongside your builder's schedule and deliver a higher-quality installation than the builder's standard package.

Q10

Can Eavestroughs Be Installed in Winter in Ottawa?

Eavestrough installation during Ottawa's winter is technically possible, but it comes with significant trade-offs that make spring through fall the far better choice for most homeowners.

Why Winter Installation Is Problematic in Ottawa

The core issue is that **sealants and caulking used at eavestrough joints do not cure properly below 5 degrees Celsius**, and Ottawa regularly sits well below minus 15 degrees from December through February. When sealant fails to bond, you get leaking seams by the time spring melt arrives — exactly when you need watertight performance the most. Seamless aluminum eavestroughs can still be roll-formed on-site in cold weather, but the aluminum becomes slightly more brittle below minus 20 degrees, increasing the risk of cracking during bending and handling.

Beyond materials, **working conditions create real safety hazards** in Ottawa winters. Icy rooflines, snow-covered ladders, and frozen fascia boards make the installation slower, riskier, and more expensive. Most Ottawa eavestrough contractors charge a **winter premium of 15 to 25 percent** above their regular rates to account for these conditions, and some experienced installers simply do not book winter jobs at all. If your fascia board needs replacement — which crews often discover only after removing the old gutter — frozen wood is harder to work with and nails do not seat as securely.

That said, there are situations where waiting is not an option. If your eavestroughs have collapsed under ice weight and meltwater is actively pouring against your foundation, an **emergency winter installation** at **$2,500 to $5,000 for a typical bungalow** is far cheaper than foundation water damage that can run tens of thousands. In that case, a contractor can install the system and return in spring to re-seal all joints once temperatures climb above 10 degrees.

The **ideal installation window in Ottawa is May through October**, with September being the busiest month as homeowners prepare for winter. Booking in June or July often gets you the best scheduling flexibility and competitive pricing — standard aluminum installation runs **$8 to $18 per linear foot** during peak season without a winter surcharge. If you know your eavestroughs need replacing, getting quotes in early spring and scheduling for late spring gives you the best combination of pricing and proper curing conditions.

For emergency situations or to plan your spring installation, the Ottawa Construction Network directory at justynrookcontracting.com lists eavestrough contractors who can assess your situation and advise on timing.

Q11

How Eavestroughs Protect Your Ottawa Home Foundation

Eavestroughs are your home's **first line of defence** against foundation water damage, and in Ottawa's climate — with over **200 centimetres of snow**, intense spring thaws, and clay-heavy soil — a properly functioning gutter system is the difference between a dry basement and a costly moisture nightmare.

The Drainage Chain From Roof to Foundation

Your roof collects an enormous volume of water. A typical **1,500-square-foot Ottawa home** channels roughly **900 litres per centimetre of rainfall** off the roof surface. Without eavestroughs, all that water free-falls from the roof edge and lands in a concentrated strip directly against your foundation. This constant bombardment erodes the grading around your home, saturates the backfill soil adjacent to your foundation walls, and creates exactly the conditions that cause basement leaks, efflorescence, and long-term structural cracking.

Eavestroughs intercept this water at the roof edge and channel it through **downspouts** positioned at strategic intervals around the home. The Ontario Building Code requires downspouts to discharge water at least **1.8 metres from the foundation**, though many Ottawa contractors recommend **3 metres or more** on properties with Leda clay soil, which drains exceptionally poorly. Downspout extensions, splash blocks, or underground drainage pipes carry water to areas where it can absorb safely into the ground or flow toward the street.

Ottawa's **freeze-thaw cycles** make proper eavestrough function even more critical. During winter, water that pools near the foundation freezes and expands, exerting lateral pressure on basement walls. Over years, this **frost pressure** can crack poured concrete foundations and push block foundation walls inward. In spring, the sudden release of snowmelt combined with frozen ground that can't absorb water creates peak flooding conditions. Properly draining eavestroughs and downspouts reduce the volume of water reaching your foundation during these critical weeks.

The **grading around your home** works together with your eavestrough system. The ground should slope away from the foundation at a minimum grade of **5 percent** for the first 1.8 metres. When eavestroughs overflow or downspouts dump water too close to the house, they gradually erode this grading, creating depressions where water pools against the foundation instead of flowing away.

For a typical Ottawa home, installing or replacing eavestroughs costs **$1,500 to $5,000** depending on the size and material. Foundation waterproofing repairs — the consequence of neglecting your gutter system — cost **$8,000 to $25,000 or more**. Keeping your eavestroughs clean, properly sloped, and well-connected to downspouts with adequate extensions is the most cost-effective foundation protection available. For installation or repair, browse eavestrough professionals through the Ottawa Construction Network directory at **justynrookcontracting.com**.

Q12

6-Inch vs 5-Inch Eavestroughs for Ottawa Thunderstorms

Six-inch eavestroughs handle significantly more water than standard 5-inch gutters, and for many Ottawa homes — especially those with steep roofs or large roof areas — they're the smarter choice. Ottawa's summer thunderstorms can dump **25 to 50 millimetres of rain in under an hour**, and those peak flow rates are where the difference between 5-inch and 6-inch gutters becomes obvious.

The Capacity Difference Matters

A standard **5-inch K-style eavestrough** handles approximately **1.2 gallons of water per foot** of gutter. A **6-inch K-style** handles roughly **2.0 gallons per foot** — that's nearly **40 percent more capacity** from just one inch of additional width. During Ottawa's intense July and August thunderstorms, that extra capacity prevents the overflow that sends water cascading down your siding, eroding your landscaping, and pooling against your foundation.

The upgrade makes the most sense for specific situations. **Steep-pitched roofs** (8:12 slope or greater) accelerate water flow dramatically, and a 5-inch gutter can't capture fast-moving runoff during heavy rain. **Large roof areas** that funnel into limited gutter runs — common on Ottawa homes with complex rooflines, dormers, or valleys — concentrate more water than a 5-inch system was designed for. **Homes surrounded by mature trees**, particularly in neighbourhoods like the Glebe, Rockcliffe Park, and Old Ottawa South, benefit because 6-inch gutters handle partial debris blockage better than 5-inch systems that clog and overflow at the first handful of leaves.

The cost difference is modest. In Ottawa, **5-inch seamless aluminum** runs **$8 to $15 per linear foot** installed, while **6-inch seamless aluminum** costs **$10 to $18 per linear foot**. On a home with 150 linear feet of gutter, you're looking at roughly **$300 to $600 more** for the wider system — a small premium for significantly better performance. The 6-inch system also pairs with **3x4-inch rectangular downspouts** instead of the standard 2x3 size, further improving drainage capacity.

There are a few considerations before upgrading. Six-inch eavestroughs are slightly more visible from the ground, which matters on heritage homes in districts like Sandy Hill or New Edinburgh where exterior appearance may be regulated. Your existing fascia board needs to be in good condition and wide enough to support the larger profile — **most Ottawa homes with standard 1x6 fascia accommodate 6-inch gutters without modification**.

For a typical Ottawa bungalow or two-storey home, 5-inch gutters are adequate when properly sloped with sufficient downspouts. But if you're replacing your eavestroughs anyway and your home has any of the risk factors above, the 6-inch upgrade is well worth the modest extra cost. An experienced contractor can assess your roof area and recommend the right size — browse eavestrough professionals through the Ottawa Construction Network directory at **justynrookcontracting.com**.

Q13

Should You Install Eavestroughs on a Detached Garage in Gloucester?

Yes, installing eavestroughs on your detached garage in Gloucester is a smart investment that protects both the structure and your property. Even though a garage may seem like a low-priority building, water pouring off an uncontrolled roof edge causes the same foundation damage, soil erosion, and ice hazards that it creates on your main house.

Why Garage Eavestroughs Matter in Ottawa

Gloucester sits on some of Ottawa's most problematic Leda clay soil, which swells when saturated and shrinks when dry. Without eavestroughs directing roof runoff away from your garage foundation, concentrated water dumps along the perimeter saturate the clay and accelerate foundation cracking. Over a few Ottawa winters with **50-plus freeze-thaw cycles**, that saturated soil heaves and shifts, pushing garage walls out of plumb and cracking concrete slabs. Repairing a shifted garage foundation costs **$3,000 to $8,000 or more**, far exceeding the cost of a simple eavestrough installation.

Water sheeting off an unprotected garage roof also creates dangerous ice patches on your driveway and walkways during Ottawa's long winter. If your garage opens onto a shared laneway or is near a sidewalk, that ice becomes a serious liability concern.

For a typical detached two-car garage in Gloucester with **40 to 60 linear feet** of roof edge, a seamless aluminum eavestrough installation runs **$400 to $900** including downspouts. Most contractors can complete a garage installation in a single morning. You will want a minimum of two downspouts, one at each end of the longest gutter run, with extensions directing water at least **1.8 metres away from the foundation** as required by the Ontario Building Code.

The best time to install garage eavestroughs is during Ottawa's prime season from **May through October**, and many homeowners bundle the garage with a main house eavestrough replacement to get better per-foot pricing. If your garage has no fascia board, the contractor will need to install one first, which adds **$12 to $25 per linear foot** but provides the structural mounting surface the eavestroughs require.

One practical tip specific to Gloucester garages: because many detached garages are set back on the lot near mature trees, consider adding a basic **leaf guard system** at the time of installation. Gutter guards on a short garage run add only **$100 to $250** but save you the hassle of climbing a ladder twice a year for cleaning. You can explore eavestrough professionals who serve the Gloucester area through the Ottawa Construction Network directory at justynrookcontracting.com.

Q14

Can Bad Eavestrough Installation Void Your Roof Warranty in Ottawa?

Improperly installed eavestroughs can absolutely compromise your roof warranty in Ottawa, and this is a problem that catches homeowners off guard when they discover water damage that should have been covered. While eavestrough installation itself is not typically covered under a roofing warranty, the way eavestroughs interact with your roof edge, drip edge, and shingles can directly cause conditions that void the manufacturer's coverage.

How Eavestrough Problems Affect Roof Warranties

Most major shingle manufacturers, including **GAF, CertainTeed, IKO, and BP**, require that the roofing system includes proper water management at the eaves. If eavestroughs are installed in a way that causes water to back up under shingles, or if the installation damages the drip edge or ice-and-water shield membrane, the manufacturer can deny a warranty claim on the grounds that the damage resulted from improper installation of related components rather than a product defect.

The most common scenario in Ottawa involves **ice dam damage**. When eavestroughs are mounted too high on the fascia, they sit above the roof edge and create a ledge where snow and ice accumulate. This accelerates ice dam formation during Ottawa's **50-plus annual freeze-thaw cycles**, and the resulting water backup under shingles causes the exact type of damage homeowners expect their warranty to cover. However, if the warranty inspector determines that improper eavestrough placement contributed to the ice dam, the claim may be denied.

Another frequent issue is eavestroughs installed without a proper drip edge, or where the drip edge was bent or damaged during installation. The drip edge directs water from the roof deck into the gutter, and without it, water wicks back along the fascia and into the roof decking. Roofing manufacturers typically require a drip edge as part of proper installation, and compromising it during eavestrough work creates a gap in your warranty protection.

Eavestroughs that are improperly sloped can also cause standing water at certain points along the roof edge. During Ottawa winters, this standing water freezes repeatedly, expanding against the fascia board and shingle overhang. Over several seasons, this freeze-thaw action lifts shingle tabs at the eaves and degrades the starter strip, leading to leaks that look like shingle failure but are actually caused by eavestrough drainage problems.

To protect your warranty, ensure any eavestrough installer understands the **relationship between gutters, drip edges, and ice-and-water shield**. The eavestrough should sit below the roof line so that shingles overhang into the gutter by about **half an inch to one inch**. Hangers should not puncture or compress the ice-and-water shield membrane. If you are replacing eavestroughs on a roof that is still under warranty, keep records of the installation including photos and the contractor's documentation. Getting this right from the start saves potentially thousands in denied warranty claims. You can find experienced eavestrough installers who understand these critical details

through the Ottawa Construction Network directory at justynrookcontracting.com.

Q15

What Is a Drip Edge and Do You Need One With Ottawa Eavestroughs?

A drip edge is a narrow strip of angled metal flashing installed along the edge of your roof, and it is one of the most important but least understood components connecting your roof to your eavestrough system. In Ottawa's extreme climate, a drip edge is not optional — it is an essential part of a properly functioning roof drainage system, and the Ontario Building Code requires it on all new roof installations.

How Drip Edges Work With Eavestroughs

The drip edge sits under the bottom row of shingles and extends outward over the fascia board, creating a clean edge that directs water off the roof deck and into the eavestrough below. Without a drip edge, water running off the last shingle can wick backward along the underside of the shingle tab and drip behind the eavestrough rather than into it. This backward-wicking water soaks into the fascia board, roof decking, and soffit, causing **rot, mould, and structural damage** that is invisible until it becomes severe.

In Ottawa, the drip edge plays a critical secondary role during winter. During **freeze-thaw cycles**, meltwater flowing off the roof needs a clean break point where it drops into the gutter. Without a drip edge, meltwater clings to the roof edge and refreezes on the fascia, building up layers of ice that pull the eavestrough away from the house. A proper drip edge also prevents water from migrating under the **ice-and-water shield membrane** that Ottawa roofers install along the first 3 to 6 feet of roof edge as ice dam protection.

Drip edges come in several profiles. **Type C (L-shaped)** is the most basic, bending at a 90-degree angle over the fascia edge. **Type D (T-shaped or kick-out)** has an additional lower flange that directs water away from the fascia and into the gutter more effectively. For Ottawa installations, **Type D drip edge is strongly recommended** because it provides better ice dam protection and keeps water further from the fascia during heavy rain.

Material options include galvanized steel, aluminum, and copper. Aluminum drip edge costs **$2 to $4 per linear foot** for the material, with installation adding **$3 to $6 per linear foot** if done as a standalone project. When installed during a roof replacement, the cost is typically included in the roofing price or adds only **$200 to $500** for a typical Ottawa home.

If you are getting new eavestroughs installed on a home that currently lacks a drip edge, ask your contractor about adding one at the same time. The eavestrough has to come down or be loosened to install the drip edge properly behind it, so doing both together saves labour costs. If your eavestroughs are being replaced during a roof

replacement, the drip edge should absolutely be installed before the new gutters go on — this is the ideal sequence and the most cost-effective time to add this critical component.

Any reputable eavestrough installer will inspect your drip edge condition before mounting new gutters. You can find professionals who understand the relationship between drip edges and eavestroughs through the Ottawa Construction Network directory at justynrookcontracting.com.

Q16

Replace Eavestroughs With Your Ottawa Roof to Save Money

Replacing your eavestroughs at the same time as your roof is one of the smartest decisions an Ottawa homeowner can make, and it almost always saves money compared to doing the projects separately. The labour overlap between roofing and eavestrough work creates a natural cost advantage that disappears once the roofing crew leaves.

Why Bundling Saves Money in Ottawa

When a roofing crew replaces your roof, they typically remove or detach the existing eavestroughs to access the roof edge, install new drip edge flashing, and replace the ice-and-water shield membrane along the eaves. If the old eavestroughs go back on, the crew has to handle them carefully, which slows the roofing work. If new eavestroughs are being installed anyway, the roofer can focus on the roof without worrying about preserving old gutters, and the eavestrough installer arrives to a clean, properly prepared roof edge with a fresh drip edge already in place.

The cost savings come from several areas. First, you **eliminate the separate mobilization fee** for the eavestrough crew, which typically runs **$200 to $400** in Ottawa. Second, the eavestrough installer does not need to work around existing roofing, and the drip edge is already installed correctly, saving about **one to two hours of labour** on a typical home. Third, if your fascia boards need repair or replacement, discovering that during a standalonne eavestrough job means an unplanned additional cost, whereas during a roof replacement the fascia is already exposed and can be addressed efficiently.

For a typical Ottawa two-storey home, **standalone eavestrough replacement** costs **$2,500 to $5,000** for seamless aluminum. When bundled with a roof replacement, many Ottawa contractors will offer a **10 to 20 percent discount** on the eavestrough portion because of the reduced labour, bringing the eavestrough cost down to **$2,000 to $4,200**. On a full roof-plus-eavestrough project, that translates to savings of **$400 to $800** or more.

Timing the project for Ottawa's **prime roofing season from May through September** gives you the widest selection of contractors and the best scheduling flexibility. Fall is the busiest season for eavestroughs alone, so bundling with a summer roof replacement avoids the fall rush entirely.

There are a few situations where you might not bundle the projects. If your roof is relatively new but your eavestroughs are failing, there is no reason to wait for a future roof replacement. If your eavestroughs are in good condition and your roof needs replacement, a careful roofing crew can detach and reinstall existing gutters. However, if your eavestroughs are more than **15 to 20 years old** and you are replacing the roof, the smart move is to bundle both projects.

When getting quotes, ask your roofing contractor whether they do eavestrough work in-house or partner with an eavestrough sub-contractor. Some roofers include eavestroughs in their scope while others coordinate with a specialist. Either approach works as long as the eavestrough installer uses **proper seamless roll-forming equipment** and follows Ottawa-specific hanger spacing of **24 inches maximum**. You can find roofing and eavestrough professionals through the Ottawa Construction Network directory at justynrookcontracting.com.

Q17

Eavestrough Drainage for Flat-Roof Additions in Ottawa

Flat-roof additions are common in Ottawa, particularly on homes in **Centretown, Old Ottawa South, the Glebe**, and other mature neighbourhoods where single-storey kitchen or sunroom extensions were added decades ago. Draining a flat roof into an eavestrough system requires a different approach than a standard pitched roof, and getting it right is especially important in Ottawa's climate where standing water, ice, and heavy snow loads put extreme stress on flat-roof drainage.

Drainage Options for Flat-Roof Additions

Despite the name, a flat roof is never truly flat. A properly built flat roof has a **slight slope of one-quarter inch per foot** toward a drainage edge, and this is where your eavestrough system connects. The most common approach for flat-roof additions in Ottawa is to install a **continuous eavestrough along the low edge** of the roof where water is directed. A standard **5-inch K-style or 6-inch K-style eavestrough** handles most residential flat-roof additions, but because flat roofs concentrate all their drainage along one edge rather than splitting it between two slopes, you may need to upsize to a **6-inch gutter with 3-inch by 4-inch rectangular downspouts** to handle peak flow during Ottawa's intense summer thunderstorms.

The connection between the flat roof membrane and the eavestrough is a critical detail that many installers overlook. The roofing membrane, typically **modified bitumen or EPDM rubber**, must extend over the roof edge and into a metal drip edge that directs water cleanly into the gutter. If the membrane terminates on top of the roof deck without a proper drip edge, water sheets down the fascia and misses the eavestrough entirely, causing fascia rot and foundation saturation.

Internal drains are an alternative for larger flat-roof additions. These are drain openings installed in the low point of the roof surface, connected to pipes that run inside the wall cavity and exit at grade level. Internal drains eliminate the need for exterior eavestroughs on the flat section but cost **$500 to $1,500 per drain** to install in Ottawa and must be kept completely clear of debris. A blocked internal drain on a flat roof during an Ottawa spring thaw can

cause catastrophic pooling and potential structural failure.

Scuppers are another option — rectangular openings cut through the parapet or roof edge wall that allow water to spill through and into a collector box or downspout. Scuppers are effective on flat roofs with parapet walls and cost **$200 to $600 each** to install. They work well in Ottawa because they are less prone to ice blockage than internal drains, though they do need **heat cable protection** in winter to prevent ice dams from blocking the opening.

Whichever system you choose, winter maintenance is essential for flat-roof drainage in Ottawa. Snow should be cleared from around drain openings, scuppers, or eavestrough edges after major snowfalls to prevent ice buildup that blocks drainage during the next thaw. Flat roofs accumulate snow rather than shedding it, and the weight of wet Ottawa snow at **200 to 500 kilograms per cubic metre** adds serious load to both the roof structure and the eavestrough system at the edge. A professional who specializes in flat-roof drainage can assess your specific addition. Browse qualified contractors through the Ottawa Construction Network directory at justynrookcontracting.com.

Q18

How Eavestroughs Affect Curb Appeal and Resale Value in Ottawa

Eavestroughs have a surprisingly significant impact on both curb appeal and resale value in Ottawa's competitive real estate market. While buyers rarely list gutters as a deciding factor, **damaged, sagging, or mismatched eavestroughs** are one of the first things a home inspector flags and one of the quickest ways to signal deferred maintenance to prospective buyers walking up your driveway.

The Value of a Clean, Well-Matched Gutter System

A complete eavestrough replacement on a typical Ottawa home costs **$1,500 to $5,000 for aluminum** depending on the home's size and complexity. According to renovation return-on-investment surveys, exterior drainage improvements including eavestroughs consistently recover **60 to 80 percent** of their cost at resale in the Ottawa market. More importantly, neglected eavestroughs that have caused visible water damage — foundation staining, soffit rot, landscape erosion — can reduce a buyer's offer by far more than the cost of replacement.

Colour matching is one of the easiest ways eavestroughs enhance curb appeal. Modern **seamless aluminum eavestroughs** come in over **30 factory-baked enamel colours** that can be matched to your trim, fascia, siding, or roof. A well-coordinated colour scheme creates a polished, finished look across the entire roofline. Ottawa's older neighbourhoods like the Glebe, Westboro, and New Edinburgh feature many homes where **copper eavestroughs** have been chosen specifically for their aesthetic contribution — the distinctive green patina that develops over 10 to

20 years is considered a premium design element on heritage and traditional-style homes.

K-style eavestroughs, which are Ottawa's standard residential profile, have a decorative ogee front that resembles crown moulding and adds an architectural detail to the roofline. **Half-round eavestroughs** are often chosen for Craftsman, Victorian, and heritage homes where the rounded profile matches the period style. Choosing the right profile for your home's architecture is a subtle but effective curb appeal decision.

From a practical resale perspective, Ottawa home inspectors will carefully evaluate your eavestrough system during a pre-purchase inspection. They look for proper slope toward downspouts, adequate hanger spacing (no more than **24 inches apart** for Ottawa's snow loads), downspouts discharging at least **1.8 metres from the foundation** per Ontario Building Code requirements, and signs of overflow or ice damage. A system that passes inspection with no concerns removes a potential negotiating point that buyers could use to reduce their offer.

Gutter guards are another value-add feature that appeals to Ottawa buyers, particularly in heavily treed neighbourhoods. A home marketed with a **leaf protection system** signals lower future maintenance costs — an attractive selling point when guards at **$10 to $25 per linear foot** have already been installed.

If you are preparing your Ottawa home for sale, replacing worn-out eavestroughs is one of the highest-impact, lowest-cost exterior upgrades you can make. Pair new eavestroughs with fresh soffit and fascia at **$12 to $25 per linear foot** for a completely refreshed roofline that photographs well in listings and impresses buyers at the curb. To find experienced eavestrough professionals who can help maximize your home's presentation, browse the Ottawa Construction Network directory at **justynrookcontracting.com**.

Q19

How Roof Pitch Affects Eavestrough Size in Ottawa

Your roof pitch has a direct and significant impact on the size of eavestroughs your Ottawa home needs, because pitch determines how quickly water reaches your gutters and how much force it carries when it gets there. A steeper roof delivers water faster and with more energy, which changes both the **volume capacity** and **physical handling characteristics** your gutter system must provide.

Understanding the Pitch-to-Gutter Relationship

Roof pitch is expressed as a ratio of vertical rise to horizontal run — a **6/12 pitch** means the roof rises 6 inches for every 12 inches of horizontal distance. Most Ottawa residential roofs range from **4/12 (moderate slope) to 12/12 (steep, 45-degree angle)**. The steeper your roof, the faster water accelerates as it flows down the surface, and the more likely it is to **overshoot a standard eavestrough** during Ottawa's intense summer thunderstorms.

For homes with a **standard 4/12 to 6/12 pitch**, a **5-inch K-style eavestrough** is adequate for most Ottawa residential situations. This is the industry standard size and handles the water volume from a moderate-slope roof efficiently. The standard 5-inch K-style holds approximately **1.2 litres of water per linear foot** and, when properly sloped with adequate downspouts, manages Ottawa's typical rainfall events without overflow.

Once your roof pitch reaches **8/12 or steeper**, you should seriously consider upgrading to a **6-inch K-style eavestrough**. On steep roofs, water reaches much higher velocities before hitting the gutter. During a heavy Ottawa thunderstorm delivering 25 to 50 millimetres per hour, water coming off an 8/12 or steeper roof can literally jump over a 5-inch gutter — a phenomenon eavestrough installers call **overshoot**. A 6-inch K-style holds approximately **2.0 litres per linear foot**, a 67 percent increase over the 5-inch, and the wider opening catches water at steeper angles. The cost difference between 5-inch and 6-inch seamless aluminum in Ottawa is modest — expect **$10 to $20 per linear foot installed** for 6-inch versus **$8 to $18 for 5-inch**.

Roof pitch also affects your **downspout requirements**. Steep roofs deliver larger peak volumes to the gutter in shorter periods, meaning downspouts must drain faster. A standard **2 by 3 inch downspout** paired with a steep roof and 6-inch gutter may become the bottleneck. Upgrading to **3 by 4 inch downspouts** ensures the drain capacity matches the gutter capacity. Each additional downspout costs **$200 to $600 installed** in Ottawa.

Another Ottawa-specific consideration is **snow and ice behaviour** on steep roofs. Steep pitches are less prone to ice dams because snow slides off rather than sitting and melting, but the sliding snow can tear eavestroughs away from the fascia if **snow guards** are not installed above the gutter line. Hanger spacing should be **18 to 24 inches apart** regardless of pitch in Ottawa, but steep roofs benefit from the tighter 18-inch spacing to resist the downward force of sliding snow loads.

If you are replacing eavestroughs or installing them on a new addition, have the installer calculate your **effective drainage area** — this accounts for both the square footage of roof draining to each gutter section and the pitch multiplier that adjusts for increased water velocity. Getting this calculation right is more important than most homeowners realize. Connect with knowledgeable eavestrough installers through the Ottawa Construction Network directory at **justynrookcontracting.com** to ensure your system is properly sized for your specific roof.

Q20

Hidden Hanger vs Spike-and-Ferrule Eavestrough Mounting in Ottawa

The mounting method used to secure your eavestroughs to the fascia board has a direct impact on durability, performance, and resistance to Ottawa's brutal winter conditions. **Hidden hangers and spike-and-ferrule systems** are the two most common approaches, and understanding the difference will help you make a better choice for your home.

Hidden Hangers vs Spike-and-Ferrule Mounting

Spike-and-ferrule is the older, traditional method. A long aluminum or steel spike is driven through the front lip of the eavestrough, through a cylindrical spacer called a ferrule that sits inside the gutter trough, and into the fascia board and rafter tail behind it. The ferrule keeps the eavestrough from crushing under the spike's pressure. This system was standard on Ottawa homes built before the 1990s and is still found on many older installations. The main advantage is simplicity — any homeowner with a hammer can reseat a loose spike. The major disadvantage is that **spikes work loose over time**, especially in Ottawa where repeated freeze-thaw cycles cause the fascia and rafter tails to expand and contract around the spike. After a few Ottawa winters, spikes can back out by several millimetres, leaving the eavestrough loose and prone to sagging under snow loads.

Hidden hangers — also called clip-style or internal hangers — are the modern standard. A formed aluminum bracket hooks under the front lip of the eavestrough and clips onto the back edge, then screws into the fascia with a long deck screw (typically **1.5 to 2 inches** for fascia-only mounting or **3 to 4 inches** to reach the rafter tail). The screw threads grip far more securely than a smooth spike, and the bracket distributes the load across the full width of the gutter rather than concentrating stress at two small points. Hidden hangers are invisible from the ground, giving a cleaner appearance, and they hold significantly more weight — critical during Ottawa's heavy wet snowfalls that can load **200 to 500 kilograms per cubic metre** onto gutter edges.

For Ottawa installations, **hidden hangers are the clear winner**. They should be spaced no more than **24 inches apart** — many Ottawa contractors use **18-inch spacing** for additional snow-load security. A hidden hanger system

costs roughly **$1 to $3 more per linear foot** than spike-and-ferrule, a modest premium that pays for itself in durability. On a typical 150-linear-foot Ottawa bungalow, that is an extra **$150 to $450** for a mounting system that will hold firm through decades of Ottawa winters.

If your home currently has spike-and-ferrule eavestroughs with loose or backing-out spikes, you do not necessarily need to replace the entire system. A professional can **retrofit hidden hangers** into your existing eavestroughs by removing the old spikes and ferrules and installing clip-style hangers at proper spacing. This retrofit typically costs **$4 to $8 per linear foot** in the Ottawa market and dramatically improves the system's performance without the cost of full replacement. The Ottawa Construction Network directory at justynrookcontracting.com lists eavestrough professionals who can assess whether a hanger retrofit or full replacement makes more sense for your situation.

Q21

How to Connect Eavestroughs at a Roof Valley in Ottawa

Roof valleys are one of the highest-stress points in any eavestrough system because they concentrate water from two converging roof planes into a single spot on the gutter. In Ottawa, where summer thunderstorms can dump heavy rainfall in short bursts and spring snowmelt sends massive water volumes off the roof, getting the valley-to-eavestrough connection right is critical to preventing overflow and fascia damage.

Handling Roof Valley Drainage in Your Eavestrough System

When two roof planes meet at a valley, rainwater accelerates down the valley channel and **shoots off the roof at high velocity**, often overshooting the eavestrough entirely if the gutter is not properly sized and positioned at that point. This is called **valley overshoot**, and it is one of the most common causes of eavestrough overflow, foundation water problems, and landscape erosion on Ottawa homes — particularly those with steeper roof pitches common in the Glebe, Old Ottawa South, and Rockcliffe Park.

The most effective solution is installing a **valley splash guard** (also called a diverter) at the point where the valley water hits the eavestrough. A splash guard is a small triangular or rectangular piece of sheet metal — typically matching your eavestrough material — that extends **3 to 5 inches above the eavestrough lip** at the valley discharge point. It catches the high-velocity water stream and redirects it down into the gutter trough rather than letting it shoot over the edge. A properly fabricated splash guard costs **$30 to $80 installed** and solves the overshoot problem immediately.

Beyond the splash guard, the eavestrough section receiving valley water should ideally be **six-inch K-style rather than standard five-inch**, at least for the section spanning the valley discharge zone. Six-inch gutters hold roughly

40 percent more water volume per linear foot, giving the system capacity to handle the concentrated valley flow during Ottawa's intense summer downpours. If upgrading the full eavestrough run to six-inch is not practical, some contractors install a short section of six-inch gutter — typically **six to ten feet** centred on the valley — that transitions to five-inch on either side using custom-fabricated reducers.

The **downspout placement** relative to the valley is equally important. At least one downspout should be located **within three to five feet of the valley discharge point** to quickly move concentrated water out of the eavestrough. Relying on a distant downspout means the entire gutter run between the valley and the downspout must carry peak valley flow volume, increasing the risk of overflow along the entire section. Each additional downspout in Ottawa runs **$200 to $600 installed** including the connection and extension.

Proper **eavestrough slope** toward the nearest downspout is essential at valley points. The standard minimum slope of **one-quarter inch per ten feet** may not be adequate for valley-heavy sections — many Ottawa contractors increase the slope to **one-half inch per ten feet** in these areas to move water more aggressively toward the downspout. If you are experiencing persistent overflow at a roof valley, have a professional assess the combination of gutter size, slope, splash guard, and downspout placement. The Ottawa Construction Network directory at justynrookcontracting.com lists eavestrough professionals who can evaluate your specific roof geometry and recommend the right solution.

Q22

Should Eavestroughs Be Removed for Roofing Jobs in Ottawa?

This is one of the most common coordination questions Ottawa homeowners face when planning a roof replacement, and the answer depends on the condition of your eavestroughs, the scope of the roofing work, and how your contractor handles the transition between the roof edge and the gutter system.

Removal Versus Working Around Existing Gutters

In most Ottawa roofing jobs, the eavestroughs **should be removed and reinstalled** after the new roof is completed, and here is why. A proper roof replacement involves stripping the old shingles, inspecting and repairing the roof deck, installing new ice and water shield membrane along the eaves, applying new drip edge flashing, and laying new shingles. The **drip edge** — that critical L-shaped metal flashing at the roof's lower edge — must tuck under the shingles and extend over the back of the eavestrough to direct water into the gutter rather than behind it. If the eavestroughs stay in place, the roofer cannot properly install the drip edge, and water will eventually find its way behind the gutter and into the fascia board.

Ottawa's **50-plus freeze-thaw cycles per winter** make proper drip edge installation especially critical. Any gap between the drip edge and the eavestrough allows meltwater to refreeze behind the gutter, accelerating fascia rot and creating ice buildup that pulls the eavestrough away from the house. The **Ontario Building Code** requires drip edge flashing on all new roof installations, and installing it correctly is virtually impossible with eavestroughs in the way.

Most reputable Ottawa roofing contractors include eavestrough removal and reinstallation as part of a full roof replacement. The additional cost is typically **$300 to $800** depending on the linear footage and complexity of the system. Some contractors subcontract the eavestrough work to a gutter specialist, which can actually produce a better result since the eavestrough professional can inspect the system, replace worn hangers, reseal joints, and ensure proper slope when reinstalling.

If your eavestroughs are **more than 15 to 20 years old**, a roof replacement is the ideal time to install new eavestroughs entirely. You save money by combining the work — the old gutters come off as part of the roofing job, and new seamless aluminum eavestroughs go on after the new roof and drip edge are in place. New seamless aluminum eavestroughs for a typical Ottawa home cost **$2,500 to $5,000**, and doing the work alongside a roof replacement eliminates a separate mobilization charge.

If the roofer insists they can work around existing eavestroughs to save time, that is a **red flag**. It usually means corners will be cut on drip edge installation and ice and water shield membrane at the eaves. In Ottawa's climate, those shortcuts lead to ice dam damage, fascia rot, and water infiltration within a few years. Always insist on proper

removal, new drip edge, and careful reinstallation. The Ottawa Construction Network directory at **justynrookcontracting.com** lists both roofing and eavestrough contractors who can coordinate this work properly.

Q23

Gutter Apron vs Drip Edge for Ottawa Eavestroughs

Understanding the difference between a gutter apron and a drip edge is important because both are roof-edge flashing components that protect the transition between your roof and your eavestroughs, but they serve different purposes and are installed differently. Getting this wrong in Ottawa's harsh freeze-thaw climate leads to fascia rot, ice damage, and water infiltration that can cost thousands to repair.

Two Flashing Types, Two Different Jobs

A **drip edge** is an L-shaped metal flashing installed at the very edge of the roof deck, tucked under the first course of shingles on top and extending out over the fascia board. Its primary job is to direct water off the roof deck and into the eavestrough while preventing water from wicking back along the underside of the sheathing through capillary action. The **Ontario Building Code** requires drip edge flashing on all new roof installations in Ontario. Drip edge is installed during roofing — it goes on before the shingles and becomes a permanent part of the roof assembly. Standard aluminum drip edge costs **$2 to $5 per linear foot** for materials in Ottawa.

A **gutter apron** is a wider, more angled flashing that bridges the gap between the roof edge and the back of the eavestrough. It is typically installed when existing eavestroughs sit too low on the fascia, creating a gap where water overshoots the gutter during heavy rain or cascades behind the gutter during snowmelt. A gutter apron slides under the bottom row of shingles and bends down into the eavestrough, creating a continuous water path from roof to gutter. Gutter apron material costs **$3 to $7 per linear foot** in Ottawa.

In Ottawa's climate, the distinction matters enormously. During spring snowmelt, water sheet-flows off the roof in enormous volumes, and any gap between the roof edge and the eavestrough allows water to pour behind the gutter and saturate the fascia board. Ottawa's **clay-heavy soil** means that water pooling at the foundation from behind-gutter overflow has nowhere to drain quickly, compounding basement moisture problems. In winter, water that gets behind the eavestrough refreezes during Ottawa's frequent overnight temperature drops, creating ice buildup that progressively levers the gutter away from the fascia.

The ideal Ottawa installation uses **both components together**. The drip edge goes on with the roof, directing water off the deck. The gutter apron bridges any remaining gap between the drip edge and the eavestrough, ensuring a sealed water path. On older Ottawa homes where the roof was installed without proper drip edge —

common on homes built before the 1990s — a gutter apron can serve as a retrofit solution without requiring a full roof-edge tear-off. Retrofitting gutter apron across a typical Ottawa home costs **$400 to $1,000** for professional installation.

If you are unsure whether your Ottawa home has proper roof-edge flashing, a professional inspection is worthwhile. Look for water stains on the fascia board, peeling paint behind the eavestrough, or soft spots in the fascia — all signs that water is getting behind the gutter. The Ottawa Construction Network directory at **justynrookcontracting.com** can connect you with eavestrough professionals who understand these critical details.

Q24

Maximum Eavestrough Hanger Spacing for Ottawa Snow Loads

Hanger spacing is one of the most critical details in any Ottawa eavestrough installation, and getting it wrong is the number one reason eavestroughs pull away from fascia boards, sag between supports, and eventually fail under winter snow and ice loads. Ottawa's heavy snow accumulation and frequent ice buildup demand much tighter hanger spacing than what you will see recommended in generic installation guides written for milder climates.

Ottawa's Snow Load Demands Tighter Spacing

The **maximum hanger spacing for Ottawa should be 24 inches** (2 feet) on centre, compared to the 36-inch spacing that is acceptable in southern Ontario, British Columbia, or the United States. Many experienced Ottawa eavestrough contractors go even tighter at **18-inch spacing**, which provides a significant safety margin against the extreme loads Ottawa's winter delivers.

Here is why this matters in real numbers. Wet snow weighs **200 to 500 kilograms per cubic metre**, and Ottawa receives over **200 centimetres of snow** each winter. When snow slides off the roof and piles on the eavestrough edge, or when ice dams form during Ottawa's **50-plus freeze-thaw cycles**, the load on each hanger can exceed **15 to 25 pounds per linear foot**. At 36-inch spacing, each hanger supports a 3-foot section carrying potentially 75 pounds of ice and snow. At 24-inch spacing, each hanger carries roughly 50 pounds. At 18-inch spacing, the load drops to around 37 pounds per hanger — a much safer margin that prevents the progressive sagging and pulling that destroys gutter systems.

The **type of hanger** matters as much as the spacing. Ottawa contractors should use **hidden internal hangers** with a built-in screw that penetrates through the fascia board and into the rafter tail or sub-fascia, not just spike-and-ferrule hangers that rely on friction to hold. Internal hangers distribute the load across the full width of the eavestrough and grip the fascia structurally, while spike-and-ferrule systems gradually work loose as the wood

expands and contracts through Ottawa's **65-degree annual temperature swing**. A quality hidden hanger costs **$1.50 to $3.00 each**, while spike-and-ferrule sets cost under a dollar — the price difference across a whole house is minimal compared to the performance difference.

For homes in heavily treed Ottawa neighbourhoods like **the Glebe, Rockcliffe Park, or Old Ottawa South**, where leaf and debris loading adds weight on top of snow, 18-inch hanger spacing is strongly recommended. The same applies to homes with steep roof pitches that shed snow in heavy slides directly onto the eavestrough edge, and homes with north-facing rooflines where snow accumulates longer and ice dams form more aggressively.

When getting quotes for new eavestrough installation in Ottawa, always ask the contractor to specify hanger type and spacing in writing. If a quote mentions 36-inch spacing or spike-and-ferrule hangers, that contractor is not accounting for Ottawa's snow load conditions. Quality eavestrough installation with 18 to 24-inch hidden hanger spacing costs **$10 to $18 per linear foot** for seamless aluminum in Ottawa. You can find experienced eavestrough contractors through the Ottawa Construction Network directory at **justynrookcontracting.com**.

Q25

Best Eavestrough System for Flat-Roof Homes in Vanier

Flat-roof homes in Vanier present unique eavestrough challenges that differ significantly from pitched-roof drainage, and choosing the right system is critical because flat roofs drain slower, hold more standing water, and are more susceptible to ice dam problems during Ottawa's brutal winters. Vanier has a concentration of older flat-roof and low-slope row houses built in the 1940s through 1960s, and many still have undersized or poorly maintained eavestrough systems that were not designed for the drainage demands these roofs create.

Choosing the Right System for Flat-Roof Drainage

Flat roofs are not truly flat — they have a slight slope of **one-quarter to one-half inch per foot** toward one or more drainage points. However, this minimal slope means water moves slowly across the roof surface, arrives at the eavestrough in a sustained flow rather than a rush, and can overwhelm a standard five-inch K-style gutter during heavy Ottawa thunderstorms when water sheets across the entire roof surface simultaneously. For flat-roof homes in Vanier, **six-inch K-style eavestroughs** are the minimum recommended size, paired with **three-by-four-inch oversized downspouts** rather than the standard two-by-three-inch size.

The number and placement of downspouts is especially important on flat-roof homes. Because the roof collects water across its entire surface area and directs it to the eavestrough all at once, you need more downspout capacity per linear foot of gutter than a pitched-roof home. The general rule for flat-roof homes in Ottawa is **one downspout for every 20 linear feet** of eavestrough, compared to one per 30 to 40 feet on pitched roofs. Each downspout on a Vanier flat-roof home must discharge at least **1.8 metres from the foundation**, and given the neighbourhood's older infrastructure and narrow lot setbacks, getting water safely away from foundations can require creative solutions like **underground drainage pipes to the front or rear of the property**.

Half-round eavestroughs are an alternative worth considering for Vanier flat-roof homes, particularly the older architectural styles in the neighbourhood. Half-round gutters are self-cleaning — their smooth, curved interior does not trap debris the way K-style gutters' flat bottoms do — and they handle sustained flow from flat roofs more efficiently because water moves through them without turbulence. Half-round eavestroughs cost **$12 to $22 per linear foot** installed in Ottawa, somewhat more than K-style, but the reduced maintenance can offset the higher upfront cost.

Winter drainage is the biggest concern for flat-roof homes in Vanier. Ice dams form differently on flat roofs — instead of forming at the eaves like on pitched roofs, ice can accumulate across the entire low-slope surface, blocking drainage outlets and creating massive standing water pools as temperatures rise above freezing. **Heat cable systems** running along the eavestrough and inside downspouts keep drainage paths open during Ottawa's

freeze-thaw cycles. Heat cable installation costs **$15 to $25 per linear foot** and must be installed by an **ESA-licensed electrician** if hardwired, as required by Ontario electrical safety regulations.

A complete eavestrough system for a typical Vanier flat-roof home — six-inch seamless aluminum with oversized downspouts, proper hanger spacing at 18 to 24 inches, and heat cables — costs **$3,500 to $6,500** installed. Browse experienced eavestrough contractors familiar with flat-roof drainage through the Ottawa Construction Network directory at **justynrookcontracting.com**.

Q26

Larger Eavestroughs for Steep Metal Roofs in Ottawa

Yes, a steep metal roof on an Ottawa home almost always calls for upgrading to six-inch K-style eavestroughs rather than the standard five-inch size, and the reason comes down to how quickly water and snow shed off a slippery metal surface. Metal roofing has a much lower friction coefficient than asphalt shingles, meaning rainwater accelerates faster and snow releases in sudden sheets rather than gradually melting. During an intense Ottawa summer thunderstorm delivering 25 to 50 millimetres of rainfall per hour, water flies off a steep metal roof at a velocity that can completely overshoot undersized gutters.

<h2>Why Steep Metal Roofs Demand a Different Approach</h2>

The combination of pitch and material creates two distinct challenges for your eavestrough system. First, the speed of runoff means water can jump right over a standard gutter if the drip edge does not extend properly into the trough. Your installer needs to ensure the drip edge overlaps the back lip of the eavestrough by at least 15 to 20 millimetres, directing the water sheet downward rather than letting it launch outward. Second, snow avalanches from metal roofs in Ottawa can weigh hundreds of kilograms when they release, and they will bend or tear away eavestroughs mounted too high on the fascia. Snow guards or snow retention bars installed on the metal roofing panels are critical to controlling this force, and they cost $8 to $15 per linear foot installed in Ottawa.

For downspouts, a six-inch eavestrough system should pair with three-by-four-inch rectangular downspouts rather than the standard two-by-three-inch size. On a typical Ottawa two-storey home with a steep metal roof and 150 to 200 linear feet of gutter run, upgrading to a six-inch seamless aluminum system costs approximately $3,000 to $5,500, which is roughly 20 to 30 percent more than the same job with five-inch gutters. That premium is well worth it to avoid the water damage from chronic overflow.

Hanger spacing matters even more on these systems because the sudden snow release puts enormous point loads on the eavestrough. Ottawa contractors experienced with metal roofing typically recommend 18-inch hanger spacing with heavy-duty hidden hangers rated for snow load. The Ontario Building Code requires that roof drainage systems effectively direct water away from foundations, and an undersized gutter on a steep metal roof simply cannot meet that requirement during Ottawa's heavy rain events or spring snowmelt.

One practical tip — schedule your eavestrough installation at the same time as the metal roof if possible, since the roofer and gutter crew can coordinate drip edge placement and snow guard positioning together. If you are retrofitting eavestroughs onto an existing metal roof, look for contractors who specifically advertise metal roof experience. The Ottawa Construction Network directory at justynrookcontracting.com can help you find eavestrough professionals familiar with metal roofing systems in our region.
