OTTAWA EAVESTROUGHS

Eavestrough Repair

Fixing leaks, reseaming joints, re-sloping sagging sections, reattaching pulled-away gutters, patching holes, and addressing damage from ice, storms, and age in Ottawa's demanding climate.

24 Expert Answers from Gutter IQ

ottawaeavestroughs.com/construction-brain

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Q1

How do I fix an eavestrough that sags in the middle of a long run on my Nepean home?

Eavestrough sagging in the middle of a long run is typically caused by inadequate hanger support or deteriorated fascia boards, both common problems in Ottawa's extreme climate where heavy snow loads and freeze-thaw cycles stress gutter systems beyond their original design limits.

The most likely culprit is **insufficient hanger spacing**. Many older Ottawa installations used the standard 36-inch hanger spacing acceptable in milder climates, but Ottawa's snow belt conditions require hangers every 24 inches maximum, with many professionals now installing them at 18-inch intervals for extra security. When hangers are spaced too far apart, the weight of snow, ice, and standing water causes the eavestrough to bow downward between support points, creating a low spot where water pools instead of flowing toward the downspout.

Deteriorated fascia boards are another frequent cause of sagging, especially on homes built in the 1980s and 1990s when pressure-treated lumber standards were less stringent. Ottawa's wet springs and freeze-thaw cycles cause fascia boards to rot or become soft, and the existing hangers lose their grip. You'll often see water stains, soft spots, or visible decay around hanger mounting points when this is the problem.

To fix sagging eavestroughs, you'll need to **add intermediate hangers** at proper spacing and potentially replace damaged fascia sections. For a typical 5-inch K-style aluminum eavestrough, use heavy-duty fascia-mount hangers rated for Ottawa's snow loads. The eavestrough must maintain a minimum slope of one-quarter inch per 10 feet toward the downspout - if adding hangers doesn't restore proper drainage flow, the entire run may need to be re-sloped.

This repair requires working at height with proper ladder safety, and accurately measuring slope across long runs is challenging without professional tools. Fascia replacement involves structural work that affects your roof edge integrity. For homes in Nepean's newer subdivisions with two-storey construction, the safety risks make professional installation the smart choice.

You can find experienced eavestrough contractors through the Ottawa Construction Network directory at justynrookcontracting.com, where you can browse local professionals and request multiple quotes for comparison.

Q2

How do I repair eavestrough damage caused by a ladder being leaned against it in Ottawa?

Ladder damage to aluminum eavestroughs is one of the most common repair issues Ottawa homeowners face, and the good news is that minor dents and small cracks can often be fixed without replacing entire sections. The repair approach depends on whether you're dealing with simple denting, cracked seams, or more severe structural damage that has pulled the gutter away from the fascia board.

For **minor dents in aluminum eavestroughs**, you can often push them out from the inside using a rubber mallet and a wooden block. Work slowly and avoid over-correcting, as aluminum can crack if flexed too aggressively in Ottawa's cold temperatures. Clean the damaged area thoroughly first, then gently work the dent out from behind while supporting the front with your hand or a soft cloth. Small dents that don't affect water flow can sometimes be left alone, especially if they're on the front decorative edge rather than the bottom channel.

Cracked seams or small holes require more involved repair. Clean the area with a wire brush to remove any loose paint or corrosion, then apply a high-quality gutter sealant like Geocel 2300 or DAP Dynaflex 230. For holes larger than a quarter-inch, you'll need a patch. Cut a piece of aluminum flashing slightly larger than the damage, apply sealant around the hole, press the patch in place, and seal the edges. This type of repair works well in Ottawa's climate but should be done during dry weather above 10 degrees Celsius for proper curing.

More serious damage that has bent the gutter profile, cracked the mounting points, or pulled hangers loose from the fascia requires professional assessment. When a ladder damages the structural integrity of the eavestrough system, attempting DIY repairs can lead to complete failure during Ottawa's heavy snow loading or spring ice dam conditions. If you notice the gutter pulling away from the house, sagging between hangers, or water pooling instead of flowing toward downspouts, the mounting system has likely been compromised.

In Ottawa's extreme climate, **temporary repairs should be completed before winter** to prevent ice dam formation and water infiltration. Even small cracks can allow water to freeze behind the gutter, expanding the damage significantly. If you're dealing with damage in late fall or winter, apply temporary sealant and plan for proper repairs in spring when temperatures are consistently above freezing.

Professional repair typically costs $150 to $500 depending on the extent of damage, with section replacement running $8 to $18 per linear foot for seamless aluminum. If multiple hangers need replacement or fascia board damage has occurred, costs can increase to $300 to $800 for comprehensive repairs.

For anything beyond simple dent removal or small crack sealing, especially on two-storey homes or when structural damage is suspected, connecting with an experienced eavestrough contractor through the Ottawa Construction Network directory at justynrookcontracting.com ensures the repair will handle Ottawa's demanding weather conditions and prevent more expensive problems down the road.

Q3

Repair or Replace Eavestroughs in Ottawa? Key Signs

Knowing whether your eavestroughs need a targeted repair or full replacement saves you from either overspending on a new system you do not need or throwing money at repairs on gutters that are past their useful life. Ottawa's harsh climate — **minus 30 winters, 50-plus freeze-thaw cycles, and heavy ice and snow loading** — means eavestroughs age faster here than in most Canadian cities, so recognizing the tipping point is especially important.

Signs That Point Toward Replacement

Multiple leaking seams along the same run are a strong replacement indicator. If you have sectional eavestroughs with joints every 10 feet and three or more seams are leaking on the same side of the house, the sealant is failing systemically rather than in one isolated spot. Resealing individual joints costs **$75 to $150 each**, and when you are patching four or five seams, the total approaches **$400 to $750** — at which point a new seamless aluminum run at **$8 to $18 per linear foot** is a better investment because seamless systems eliminate most joint failures entirely.

Visible sagging between hangers that returns after re-levelling indicates the aluminum has fatigued and permanently stretched. Ottawa's heavy wet snow — weighing **200 to 500 kilograms per cubic metre** — gradually deforms aluminum over years of seasonal loading. Once the metal has lost its structural memory, re-sloping provides only temporary improvement before the sag returns. If sagging spans more than two or three hanger bays on the same run, replacement is the practical choice.

Extensive rust or corrosion on steel or galvanized eavestroughs, particularly large rust holes or flaking along the bottom of the trough, means the protective coating has failed beyond repair. Patching individual rust holes with metal patches and sealant is viable for one or two spots, but widespread corrosion means the material is deteriorating everywhere and patches are just buying months.

Eavestroughs pulling away from the fascia in multiple locations often signals rotted fascia board underneath rather than just loose hangers. If the fascia is soft, spongy, or visibly decayed when you press on it, the mounting surface itself needs replacement. In that case, you are removing the eavestroughs anyway, and installing new gutters on fresh fascia makes more sense than remounting old ones. Fascia replacement in Ottawa runs **$12 to $25 per linear foot** including aluminum wrapping.

Paint peeling extensively on the inside of the trough indicates the factory finish has broken down, exposing raw aluminum to standing water and accelerating oxidation. While aluminum does not rust like steel, the protective finish matters for longevity.

Repair is the right call when you have **one or two isolated problems** — a single leaking joint, one section knocked loose by a ladder, a localized dent from ice fall, or a single downspout connection that has separated. Spot repairs in Ottawa typically cost **$150 to $500** and can extend your system's life by several years. If your eavestroughs are under 15 years old and the issues are limited to one area, repair almost always makes sense.

As a general rule, aluminum eavestroughs in Ottawa last **20 to 30 years** with regular maintenance. If your system is approaching 20 years and showing multiple symptoms, replacement gives you a fresh system with modern hanger spacing and seamless construction that performs better through Ottawa winters. For an honest assessment, consider getting two or three quotes from local professionals — the Ottawa Construction Network directory at **justynrookcontracting.com** connects you with eavestrough contractors who can evaluate your specific situation.

Q4

Fix a Leaking Eavestrough Joint in Hintonburg Ottawa

Leaking eavestrough joints are one of the most common gutter problems in Ottawa, and Hintonburg's older housing stock — much of it built between the 1890s and 1950s — makes this neighbourhood particularly prone to joint failures. The good news is that fixing a single leaking joint is a manageable repair for handy homeowners on single-storey homes, and the materials cost under **$20**.

Before you start, understand why the joint is leaking. Ottawa's extreme temperature range causes aluminum to expand and contract with every season — a 10-metre run shifts over **6 millimetres** between summer and winter extremes. Over years of cycling, the butyl rubber or silicone sealant at sectional joints cracks, separates, and loses adhesion. Hintonburg homes with original sectional eavestroughs may have joints that have endured **30 or more years** of this thermal stress.

Step-by-Step Joint Repair

Choose a **dry day above 10 degrees Celsius** for the repair — sealant needs warmth to cure properly and will not adhere to wet or frosty surfaces. You will need **gutter sealant** (not regular silicone caulk — use a product specifically designed for gutters, such as Geocel or DAP gutter sealant), a **stiff wire brush or abrasive pad**, **rubbing alcohol or acetone** for cleaning, **tin snips** if old sealant is particularly thick, work gloves, and a sturdy ladder.

Set your ladder on firm, level ground — Hintonburg's older properties often have uneven landscaping and settled walkways, so use a **ladder leveller** if needed. Start by clearing all debris from the eavestrough for at least two feet on either side of the leaking joint. Use the wire brush to remove all old sealant, dirt, and oxidation from both the inside and outside of the joint area. This step is critical — new sealant will not bond to dirty or corroded surfaces. Clean the bare metal with rubbing alcohol and let it dry completely.

Inspect the joint once cleaned. If the two sections have separated by more than **3 millimetres**, you may need to drill two or three **1/8-inch pop rivets** through the overlapping sections to pull them back together before sealing. If the overlap is tight and the sections are aligned, rivets are not necessary.

Apply a generous bead of gutter sealant along the entire interior seam of the joint, pressing it firmly into the gap with a gloved finger or small putty knife. Cover at least **one inch on either side of the seam** for good adhesion. Apply a second bead along the outside of the joint for added protection. Smooth the sealant to eliminate air pockets. Allow **24 to 48 hours** of cure time before the next rainfall — check the forecast before starting.

For Hintonburg homes with **multiple leaking joints**, consider whether the repair cost adds up to a point where seamless eavestrough replacement makes more sense. If you are patching three or more joints on the same run, a

seamless aluminum replacement at **$8 to $18 per linear foot** eliminates joint failures entirely. Professional seam repair runs **$75 to $150 per joint** if you prefer not to climb a ladder yourself. The Ottawa Construction Network directory at **justynrookcontracting.com** lists eavestrough professionals serving Hintonburg and surrounding Ottawa neighbourhoods who can handle both targeted repairs and full system replacement.

Q5

Why Eavestroughs Pull Away From the House in Ottawa

Eavestroughs pulling away from the house is one of the most visible and concerning gutter problems Ottawa homeowners face, and it is especially common after harsh winters. When you see a gap between the back of the eavestrough and the fascia board, water pours behind the gutter and runs down the wall, staining siding, eroding foundation soil, and potentially causing basement moisture problems. Understanding the cause determines the right fix.

The Three Main Causes in Ottawa

Fascia board rot is the number one reason eavestroughs pull away from Ottawa homes. The fascia is the flat board running along the roof edge that your eavestroughs mount to, and it is typically made of wood (often spruce or pine) even on homes with aluminum fascia wrapping. When the aluminum wrap develops gaps at joints or nail holes — which happens as Ottawa's temperature swings work on the metal — moisture gets behind the wrapping and the wood rots from the inside out. The hanger screws or spikes lose their grip in soft, decayed wood, and the weight of the eavestrough, compounded by **water, ice, and snow loading**, pulls the whole system away from the house. Fascia rot is particularly common on north-facing walls where moisture lingers and on sections below valley runoff points.

To fix fascia rot, you must **remove the eavestrough section**, strip the aluminum wrapping, replace the rotted fascia board with new pressure-treated or PVC fascia lumber, re-wrap with aluminum, and remount the eavestrough with new hangers. Fascia replacement costs **$12 to $25 per linear foot** in Ottawa including aluminum wrapping, plus the cost of eavestrough removal and reinstallation. This is firmly professional territory — it involves working at roof edge height, removing and handling long gutter sections, and carpentry skills.

Failed or insufficient hangers are the second most common cause. Older Ottawa homes often have eavestroughs mounted with **spike-and-ferrule** hangers — long nails driven through the front of the gutter, through a metal tube (ferrule), and into the fascia. Over years of Ottawa's freeze-thaw cycles and snow loading, these spikes work loose from the fascia. Modern **hidden clip hangers** or **screw-in hangers** provide much stronger

attachment. Replacing spike-and-ferrule with screw-in hidden hangers costs **$3 to $6 per hanger** plus labour, and most Ottawa homes need a hanger every **18 to 24 inches** along the run.

Ice and snow overloading can physically pull eavestroughs away from the fascia even when the fascia and hangers are sound. Wet snow accumulation along the gutter edge can exert **hundreds of kilograms of downward force** on a single run. Ice dams that form at the eaves add even more weight. If your eavestroughs pull away primarily after winter, the root cause may be inadequate attic insulation and ventilation allowing ice dam formation, combined with hangers spaced too far apart for Ottawa's snow loads.

For a quick assessment, press firmly on the fascia board behind the pulled-away section. If it feels **soft, spongy, or gives under finger pressure**, you have rot and need board replacement. If the fascia feels solid, the fix is likely re-securing with stronger hangers at tighter spacing. Either way, ignoring pulled-away eavestroughs leads to escalating damage — water running behind gutters causes wall sheathing damage, soffit rot, and foundation erosion that costs far more to repair than the eavestrough fix itself.

Because this repair involves working at height and often requires both carpentry and gutter skills, most Ottawa homeowners hire a professional. The Ottawa Construction Network directory at **justynrookcontracting.com** connects you with eavestrough contractors experienced in fascia repair and hanger upgrades suited to Ottawa's demanding conditions.

Q6

Re-Slope or Replace Sagging Eavestroughs in Ottawa?

Sagging eavestroughs are one of the most common complaints from Ottawa homeowners, and the good news is that many sagging systems can be re-sloped and restored to proper function without a full replacement. The key is diagnosing why they are sagging and whether the aluminum itself has been permanently deformed.

Eavestroughs need a consistent slope of at least **one-quarter inch per 10 feet of run** toward the nearest downspout to drain properly. When that slope is lost, water pools in low spots, creating standing water that attracts mosquitoes in summer and freezes into heavy ice blocks in winter — which makes the sagging worse in a vicious cycle. In Ottawa, where gutter ice can persist from November through March, even a minor low spot becomes a serious problem.

When Re-Sloping Works

Re-sloping is effective when the aluminum eavestrough material is still structurally sound — meaning it has not stretched, thinned, or permanently bent. If the sagging is caused by **hangers that have loosened, spikes that**

have pulled out of the fascia, or brackets that have shifted, a professional can reposition the hangers to restore proper slope without replacing the gutter itself. This involves loosening each hanger, adjusting its height to create the correct grade, and re-securing it to the fascia with new screws. The cost for professional re-sloping in Ottawa typically runs **$200 to $600** depending on the length of the affected run and how many hangers need adjustment.

Re-sloping also works well when the original installation had **insufficient slope from the start** — a surprisingly common problem with budget installations. If the gutter itself is in good condition but water pools at a midpoint, a contractor can adjust the entire run to drain properly. In some cases, this means adding a **second downspout** at the low point rather than trying to re-grade a very long run, which is a practical solution that costs **$200 to $600 per additional downspout** including connection.

Upgrading from old **spike-and-ferrule hangers to modern screw-in hidden clip hangers** during a re-sloping job prevents future sagging. Hidden hangers grip the fascia board more securely and support the gutter from inside the trough, distributing weight more evenly. In Ottawa, hangers should be spaced every **18 to 24 inches** — closer spacing than the 36-inch standard used in milder climates — to handle the snow and ice loads that cause sagging in the first place.

Replacement is the better choice when the aluminum has physically stretched and thinned in the sagging area. You can check this by looking at the bottom of the trough in the low spot — if the metal has visibly bowed downward and feels thinner or weaker than the surrounding sections, the aluminum has fatigued beyond recovery. Re-sloping a stretched section just moves the sag to a different point. Replacement is also warranted when the **fascia board behind the sagging section is rotted**, because you cannot re-slope a gutter against soft wood and expect it to hold. Fascia rot is common on Ottawa homes, especially on north-facing walls and under valley runoff points where moisture concentrates.

For eavestroughs over **20 years old** that are sagging in multiple locations, full replacement with a modern seamless aluminum system at **$8 to $18 per linear foot** often makes more sense than paying for re-sloping labour on aging material. Seamless gutters eliminate the joint failures that compound drainage problems, and new installations come with hangers properly spaced for Ottawa's climate from day one. If you are unsure whether re-sloping or replacement is the right call, getting two or three assessments from local contractors gives you a clear picture — the Ottawa Construction Network directory at **justynrookcontracting.com** is a good place to start finding eavestrough professionals in your area.

Q7

Fix a Leaking Eavestrough Corner in Ottawa

Leaking eavestrough corners — where two runs meet at an inside or outside mitre — are one of the most common repair needs on Ottawa homes, and the good news is that a corner leak is absolutely fixable without replacing the entire eavestrough run. Corners are the highest-stress point in any gutter system because they join two pieces of metal at an angle, creating a seam that must withstand water pressure, thermal expansion, and the weight of debris, snow, and ice. Ottawa's **65-degree annual temperature swing** works on that seam relentlessly, and after 10 to 15 years, even well-installed corners often start to leak.

Before attempting the repair, inspect the corner from a ladder on a dry day. You are looking for three things: **visible gaps in the sealant line** along the inside of the mitre joint, **corrosion or pitting** around the seam area, and whether the two sections have **shifted apart** creating a physical gap in the metal. If the gap is less than about **3 millimetres** and the metal itself is sound, a sealant repair will fix the problem. If the metal is corroded through or the sections have separated significantly, you may need a professional to cut out and replace the corner fitting.

The Right Way to Seal a Corner

Timing matters — choose a **dry day above 10 degrees Celsius** with no rain forecast for at least 48 hours. Sealant needs warmth and dryness to cure properly, which limits this repair to roughly **May through October** in Ottawa. Gather your materials: **gutter-specific sealant** (not general-purpose silicone — use products like Geocel Gutter Seal or DAP Gutter & Flashing Sealant that are formulated for metal-to-metal adhesion and remain flexible through freeze-thaw cycles), a **stiff wire brush**, **rubbing alcohol**, **fine sandpaper (120 grit)**, and work gloves.

Start by clearing all debris from the corner area and at least **12 inches** along each run leading into the corner. Use the wire brush to scrape away all old sealant — every bit of it. Old, failed sealant prevents new sealant from bonding to the metal surface, and this is the step most people rush through. Sand the cleaned area lightly with 120-grit sandpaper to create a slightly roughened surface for better adhesion, then wipe everything clean with rubbing alcohol and allow it to dry completely.

Apply a thick, continuous bead of gutter sealant along the entire interior seam of the corner joint, pressing firmly into the gap. Use a gloved finger or small putty knife to smooth the sealant into full contact with both metal surfaces, extending coverage at least **one inch beyond the seam on all sides**. For outside corners that are exposed to direct water flow, apply sealant on both the inside and outside of the joint. For added durability on persistently leaky corners, apply a **gutter repair patch** — a piece of aluminum flashing cut slightly larger than the joint area, embedded into a bed of gutter sealant and pressed flat. This creates a waterproof membrane over the seam that outlasts sealant alone.

A properly executed corner sealant repair costs under **$25 in materials** and lasts **5 to 10 years** before needing reapplication. Professional corner repair in Ottawa runs **$100 to $250 per corner**, which is worth considering for second-storey corners or complex rooflines where ladder work is risky. If your home has multiple leaking corners or the metal at the joint has corroded through, a professional can replace individual corner fittings without touching the straight runs — the Ottawa Construction Network directory at **justynrookcontracting.com** lists eavestrough contractors experienced in targeted repairs throughout Ottawa.

Q8

Green Staining Below Eavestroughs in Westboro — Causes & Fixes

Those green streaks running down the walls beneath your eavestroughs are caused by **oxidation of the aluminum** combined with organic material washing over the gutter lip. In heavily treed Westboro neighbourhoods, decomposing leaves, algae, and tannins mix with moisture inside the gutter and create a green-tinged runoff that stains siding, brick, and stucco. Copper eavestroughs produce an even more dramatic green patina runoff, but since most Westboro homes have aluminum gutters, the culprit is almost always a combination of **algae buildup and oxidized aluminum residue**.

Stopping the Stain at Its Source

The most effective long-term solution is keeping your eavestroughs clean. In Westboro, where mature maples and elms line nearly every street, debris accumulates rapidly from September through November and again when spring buds and pollen drop in April and May. **Twice-annual professional cleaning at $150 to $350 per visit** removes the organic sludge that feeds the staining process. Installing **gutter guards rated for fine debris** — micro-mesh systems at **$18 to $30 per linear foot** installed — dramatically reduces the amount of organic material sitting in the trough and breaking down into that green-tinted slurry.

For the existing stains on your siding, a solution of **oxygen bleach (not chlorine bleach)** mixed with warm water and applied with a soft-bristle brush works well on vinyl and aluminum siding. On brick, a pressure washer at a low setting removes most oxidation staining. Avoid harsh chemical cleaners on painted surfaces, as they can strip the finish.

Another contributing factor specific to Ottawa's climate is the **50-plus freeze-thaw cycles each winter**. Each cycle traps moisture and organic residue against the gutter face, accelerating the oxidation that causes green streaking. Ensuring your eavestroughs have a proper slope of at least **one-quarter inch per 10 feet of run** toward the downspout prevents standing water from sitting in the trough and intensifying the oxidation process.

If your eavestroughs are more than 15 years old and the factory enamel finish has worn thin, the bare aluminum oxidizes much faster. At that point, the staining will keep returning no matter how often you clean. Replacing aging eavestroughs with new **seamless aluminum at $8 to $18 per linear foot** installed gives you a fresh factory-baked finish that resists oxidation for another decade or more. If the staining problem is severe or your eavestroughs need attention beyond simple cleaning, browsing eavestrough professionals through the Ottawa Construction Network directory at **justynrookcontracting.com** is a good next step to get quotes and find contractors experienced with Westboro's older housing stock.

Q9

Signs Your Eavestrough Hangers Need Replacement in Ottawa

Eavestrough hangers are the metal brackets that secure your gutters to the fascia board, and in Ottawa's demanding climate they take a serious beating. The most obvious sign of hanger failure is **visible sagging or pulling away from the roofline** — if you stand at ground level and look along the gutter edge, the profile should follow a consistent line with a gentle slope toward each downspout. Any dips, waves, or sections that have dropped away from the fascia indicate hangers that have bent, broken, or pulled their fasteners out of deteriorating wood.

Key Warning Signs in Ottawa's Climate

Ottawa's **50-plus freeze-thaw cycles per winter** and heavy snow loading are the primary reasons hangers fail faster here than in milder regions. Wet snow can weigh **200 to 500 kilograms per cubic metre**, and when that weight accumulates along the gutter edge, even properly installed hangers flex and fatigue over time. After each winter, walk the perimeter of your home and look for these specific problems: gaps between the back of the eavestrough and the fascia board, visible rust or corrosion on the hanger spikes or clips, cracked or split fascia wood where the hanger screws anchor, and sections where the gutter tilts forward instead of sitting level.

Another telltale sign is **water pooling or overflowing at specific spots** during rain. If water overflows from a particular section while the rest of the system drains properly, the hangers in that area have likely allowed the gutter to settle and lose its slope. You can check slope by pouring water from a jug at the high end and watching whether it flows toward the downspout or collects in the middle.

The type of hanger matters significantly for Ottawa conditions. Older homes often have **spike-and-ferrule hangers**, which are long nails driven through the gutter into the fascia with a metal tube inside the gutter to prevent crushing. These loosen over time as the fascia wood contracts and expands through Ottawa's **65-degree annual temperature swing**. Modern **hidden clip hangers** (also called internal bracket hangers) are far superior — they

screw directly into the fascia and grip the gutter lip from inside, distributing weight more evenly. Upgrading from spikes to hidden clips costs roughly **$3 to $6 per hanger** installed, and most Ottawa contractors recommend spacing them **no more than 24 inches apart**, or even 18 inches for extra security against snow loads.

If you are finding multiple failed hangers or your fascia board has gone soft from rot, the repair becomes more involved and professional assessment is worthwhile. Replacing hangers on a two-storey home also involves ladder work that carries real safety risks. For contractor options, the Ottawa Construction Network directory at **justynrookcontracting.com** lists eavestrough professionals who can inspect your hanger system and recommend the most cost-effective solution.

Q10

Dented Eavestroughs After an Ottawa Hailstorm — What to Do

After a hailstorm in Ottawa, your first step is a **thorough visual inspection from the ground and, if safe, from a ladder** to assess the extent of the damage. Not all dents require immediate action — minor cosmetic dents in aluminum eavestroughs that do not affect water flow can be left alone without causing long-term problems. What you are really looking for is damage that compromises the system's ability to carry water: **cracked seams, punctured metal, crushed sections that restrict flow, or dents severe enough to create low spots** where water will pool instead of draining toward the downspouts.

Assessing the Damage and Your Options

Aluminum eavestroughs in the standard **0.027-inch gauge** dent more easily than the heavier **0.032-inch premium gauge**, so the severity of hail damage depends partly on your material. If the dents are shallow and the eavestrough still maintains its shape and slope, the functional impact is minimal. However, if the hail has caused **cracks in the enamel coating**, those bare spots will eventually oxidize and corrode — not a crisis in the short term, but something to address within a season or two. A dab of **exterior metal primer followed by matching enamel touch-up paint** protects the exposed aluminum for a few more years.

For dents that have created low spots or disrupted the gutter's slope, water will pool in those depressions. Standing water in Ottawa is problematic because it accelerates corrosion, breeds mosquitoes in summer, and becomes a freezing point in winter that can **expand and crack seams during Ottawa's 50-plus freeze-thaw cycles**. A professional can sometimes reshape moderate dents using specialized tools without replacing the section, typically costing **$150 to $400** depending on accessibility.

If the damage is widespread — multiple crushed sections, punctures, or cracked seams across a significant portion of your system — replacement of the affected runs may be more cost-effective than patching. Replacing a single run of **seamless aluminum eavestrough costs $8 to $18 per linear foot** installed in Ottawa, and a contractor can match the colour to your existing system from over 30 factory colours.

One important consideration is **insurance**. Most homeowner policies cover hail damage to eavestroughs as part of the exterior structure. Document the damage thoroughly with photos before making any repairs, and contact your insurer to confirm coverage. An adjuster may want to inspect the damage in person, so avoid removing or replacing damaged sections until you have clearance. For professional assessment and repair, the Ottawa Construction Network directory at **justynrookcontracting.com** connects you with eavestrough contractors who can provide written quotes that your insurance company will accept.

Q11

Can You Patch a Hole in an Aluminum Eavestrough? Ottawa DIY Guide

A small hole in an aluminum eavestrough can absolutely be patched as a DIY repair, and in most cases a proper patch will last several more years before the section needs full replacement. The key is the **size and cause of the hole**. Holes smaller than a quarter-inch from corrosion pitting or a stray nail can be sealed quickly and effectively. Holes larger than about **one inch in diameter**, or damage from impact that has also bent or creased the metal around it, are better candidates for section replacement because the surrounding metal is likely weakened.

How to Patch It Right

For small corrosion holes, start by **cleaning the area thoroughly** — remove any debris, oxidation, and old sealant with a wire brush or fine sandpaper. The metal needs to be clean and dry for any patch to bond properly. For pinhole leaks, a generous bead of **polyurethane gutter sealant** (not silicone, which does not adhere well to aluminum long-term) pressed firmly into and over the hole creates a durable seal. Products like **Loctite PL S40** or similar construction-grade sealants rated for outdoor metal applications work well and cost **$8 to $15 per tube** at any Ottawa building supply store.

For holes up to about one inch, use an **aluminum patch kit or a piece of flashing cut slightly larger than the hole**. Apply a layer of gutter sealant around the hole, press the aluminum patch firmly over it, then apply another layer of sealant over the patch edges. The patch should extend at least half an inch beyond the hole on all sides. Allow **24 hours of dry weather** for the sealant to cure fully — check Ottawa's forecast before starting, because Ottawa's spring and fall rains can interrupt the curing process.

Here is the important context for Ottawa homeowners: if you are finding multiple small holes in your eavestroughs, that is a sign of **widespread corrosion** rather than isolated damage. Aluminum eavestroughs in Ottawa typically last **20 to 30 years**, and once corrosion pitting starts appearing in multiple spots, the metal is thinning throughout the system. Patching one hole only to find three more next season means the system is approaching end of life, and **full replacement at $8 to $18 per linear foot** for seamless aluminum becomes the smarter investment.

Also consider that patching is only practical on **accessible single-storey eavestroughs** where you can safely reach the damage from a ladder. Working on two-storey homes or steep rooflines introduces real fall risk that makes professional help worthwhile. If you are dealing with multiple holes, aging eavestroughs, or hard-to-reach sections, browsing eavestrough professionals through the Ottawa Construction Network directory at **justynrookcontracting.com** helps you find contractors who can assess whether patching or replacing makes more sense for your situation.

Q12

Eavestroughs Overflowing During Ottawa Rainstorms — How to Fix It

Water overflowing from eavestroughs during heavy rain is one of the most common complaints Ottawa homeowners bring up, and the good news is that it almost always has a fixable cause. The most likely culprit is **clogged gutters or downspouts** — Ottawa's mature tree canopy drops enormous volumes of leaves, maple keys, and pine needles into eavestrough systems, especially in neighbourhoods like the Glebe, Old Ottawa South, and Rockcliffe Park. Even a partial blockage at the downspout outlet can cause the entire run to back up and overflow during the intense thunderstorms Ottawa experiences from May through September.

Diagnosing the Overflow

Start by **cleaning the entire eavestrough system** and flushing each downspout with a garden hose. If water flows freely after cleaning, debris was your problem and a regular cleaning schedule — or better yet, **gutter guards at $10 to $25 per linear foot** installed — will prevent recurrence. If the eavestroughs still overflow after cleaning, the problem is either **improper slope, undersized gutters, or insufficient downspouts**.

Slope issues are extremely common in Ottawa. Your eavestroughs should drop at least **one-quarter inch per 10 feet of run** toward the nearest downspout. Over time, Ottawa's freeze-thaw cycles — more than **50 per winter** — cause hangers to shift and fascia boards to flex, gradually flattening sections where water then pools instead of flowing. You can test slope by pouring water from a bucket at the far end of a run and watching its path. If it puddles in the middle, the section needs re-sloping, which a professional typically charges **$150 to $400** to correct.

Undersized eavestroughs are a subtler issue. Many Ottawa homes built before the 1990s were fitted with **4-inch gutters**, which simply cannot handle the volume of water that falls during a heavy summer thunderstorm. Environment Canada data shows Ottawa can receive **25 to 40 millimetres of rain in a single hour** during severe storms. Upgrading to **5-inch K-style eavestroughs** — the current residential standard — increases water capacity by roughly 40 percent. Homes with steep roofs or large roof surface areas may need **6-inch gutters** to handle peak flow without overflow.

Downspout capacity matters just as much as gutter size. The general rule is **one downspout for every 30 to 40 linear feet of eavestrough run**. If your home has long runs with only one downspout at the end, adding a second outlet midway through the run can eliminate overflow entirely. Individual downspout installation in Ottawa runs **$200 to $600** including the connection to the gutter and ground-level extension.

If you have cleaned, checked slope, and confirmed sizing but the overflow continues, the issue may be the gutter's position relative to the roof edge. Eavestroughs installed too far below the drip edge allow water to shoot over the gutter lip during heavy rain rather than flowing in. A professional can adjust the positioning or install a **drip edge**

extension to direct water into the gutter. For a proper assessment, the Ottawa Construction Network directory at **justynrookcontracting.com** connects you with eavestrough specialists who can diagnose and fix overflow problems specific to your home's roof geometry.

Q13

Does Ottawa Home Insurance Cover Eavestrough Ice Dam Damage

Most Ottawa home insurance policies **do cover sudden eavestrough damage from storms**, but coverage for **ice dam damage is more complicated** and depends heavily on your specific policy wording and whether the insurer considers the damage sudden or the result of gradual neglect. This distinction costs Ottawa homeowners thousands of dollars every winter.

Understanding What's Typically Covered

Storm damage from wind, hail, falling trees, or the weight of a sudden heavy ice storm is generally covered under the perils section of a standard homeowner's policy. If a February ice storm tears your eavestroughs off the fascia or a summer windstorm rips a downspout loose, you can typically file a claim. The **1998 ice storm** that devastated Ottawa resulted in widespread eavestrough claims, and most were paid. Your policy should also cover **interior water damage** that results from a covered exterior event — so if a storm damages your eavestrough and water enters through the roof edge, the interior repairs are typically claimable.

Ice dam damage, however, sits in a grey area. Many insurers in Ontario treat ice dams as a **maintenance issue** rather than a sudden peril, particularly if the ice dam resulted from inadequate attic insulation or poor ventilation. If your insurer can argue that the ice dam formed gradually over weeks due to conditions you should have addressed, they may deny the claim. Some policies explicitly exclude ice dam damage, while others cover the resulting water damage but not the eavestrough repair itself.

Here's what you should do right now. **Call your insurance broker** and specifically ask whether your policy covers ice dam damage, eavestrough replacement from ice loading, and interior water damage from backed-up gutters. Ask about your **deductible** — most Ottawa policies carry a **$1,000 to $2,500 deductible**, and since a typical eavestrough repair costs **$150 to $500** and a full replacement runs **$1,500 to $5,000**, smaller repairs may not be worth claiming. Filing small claims can also increase your premiums at renewal.

The smartest approach is **prevention**. Ensuring your attic has **R-60 insulation** (the current Ontario Building Code recommendation for Ottawa's climate zone) and adequate soffit ventilation dramatically reduces ice dam risk. Keeping eavestroughs clean and in good repair demonstrates maintenance diligence, which strengthens any future claim. Document your eavestrough condition with **dated photos** each spring and fall — this evidence is invaluable if you ever need to prove sudden damage versus gradual wear.

For eavestrough repairs or preventive upgrades, browse professionals through the Ottawa Construction Network directory at **justynrookcontracting.com** to get quotes and address issues before they become insurance claims.

Q14

Can Clogged Eavestroughs Cause Basement Flooding Ottawa

Absolutely, yes — clogged eavestroughs are one of the most common and preventable causes of basement flooding in Ottawa, and the connection is more direct than most homeowners realize. Every spring during Ottawa's **April and May thaw**, when snowmelt combines with heavy rainfall, clogged gutters turn a manageable drainage problem into a basement emergency.

How Clogged Gutters Lead to Basement Water

When eavestroughs are blocked with leaves, shingle grit, and winter debris, water has nowhere to go. Instead of flowing through the downspouts and being directed **1.8 metres or more away from the foundation** as required by the Ontario Building Code, water pours over the gutter edges in sheets. This concentrated overflow dumps directly against your foundation walls at the worst possible location — right where the soil meets the house.

Ottawa's soil makes this problem dramatically worse. Much of the city, particularly in areas like Barrhaven, Orleans, and Kanata, sits on **Leda clay** (also called Champlain Sea clay), which has extremely poor drainage. When saturated, this clay holds water against foundation walls for extended periods rather than allowing it to drain away. The **hydrostatic pressure** from water-saturated clay pushes moisture through foundation cracks, deteriorates waterproofing membranes, and overwhelms weeping tile systems. A single heavy spring rainstorm can dump **25 to 50 millimetres of rain** in a few hours, and if your eavestroughs aren't flowing, every drop from your entire roof surface concentrates at your foundation.

The numbers are stark. A **1,500-square-foot roof** collects approximately **900 litres of water per centimetre of rainfall**. During a moderate Ottawa spring rain of 3 centimetres, that's **2,700 litres** — nearly enough to fill a hot tub. With properly functioning eavestroughs and downspouts, that water gets channelled safely away. With clogged gutters, it pools against your foundation.

Basement flooding damage in Ottawa typically costs **$5,000 to $25,000** to remediate, depending on whether finished spaces, electrical systems, or HVAC equipment are affected. A professional eavestrough cleaning costs **$150 to $350 per visit**. Spring and fall cleaning packages run **$250 to $600 annually**. The math is overwhelmingly in favour of maintenance.

Schedule your eavestrough cleaning in **early April** before the heaviest spring rains arrive, and again in **late November** after the last leaves have fallen. If your home has persistent basement moisture issues despite clean gutters, you may need **downspout extensions** or **underground drainage** to move water further from the foundation. The Ottawa Construction Network directory at **justynrookcontracting.com** lists both eavestrough and waterproofing professionals who can assess your specific situation.

Q15

What Happens If You Ignore Damaged Eavestroughs in Ottawa Winter

Ignoring damaged eavestroughs heading into an Ottawa winter is one of the most expensive gambles a homeowner can take. Our winters routinely hit **minus 25 to minus 30 degrees Celsius**, deliver **over 200 centimetres of snow**, and cycle through **50 or more freeze-thaw events** — conditions that turn a small eavestrough problem in October into a major repair bill by April.

The Cascade of Winter Damage

A **sagging or detached section** that seems minor in fall becomes a dam for snow and ice in winter. When snow accumulates on a tilted or buckled gutter, the weight increases rapidly — wet snow weighs **200 to 500 kilograms per cubic metre** — and can tear the entire eavestrough run away from the fascia, taking wood, paint, and potentially soffit panels with it. What would have been a **$150 to $300 repair** in October becomes a **$1,500 to $3,000 fascia-and-eavestrough replacement** in spring.

Leaking seams and holes allow water to flow behind the eavestrough and down the fascia board. In Ottawa's freeze-thaw cycles, this water alternately soaks and freezes in the fascia wood, accelerating **rot at an alarming rate**. One winter of water infiltration through a leaking seam can destroy a section of fascia that would otherwise last another decade. Fascia replacement runs **$12 to $25 per linear foot**, and if the rot extends to the roof sheathing, you're looking at a much more involved repair.

Ice dams form more aggressively around damaged eavestroughs. A properly sloped, clear gutter allows some meltwater to drain even during mild winter days. A damaged, clogged, or partially detached gutter traps water at the roof edge, where it refreezes into thick ice that backs water under your shingles. This backed-up water enters your attic, soaks insulation, stains ceilings, and can cause **mould growth** that's expensive to remediate — typically **$3,000 to $10,000** depending on the extent.

Water that overflows from damaged gutters saturates the soil against your foundation all winter long. In Ottawa's clay-heavy soil, this trapped moisture freezes and pushes against basement walls through **frost pressure**, potentially cracking the foundation. **Basement waterproofing** repairs start at **$8,000** and can exceed $20,000 for serious cases.

The bottom line is straightforward: a pre-winter eavestrough inspection and repair in **September or October** typically costs **$150 to $500**. The cascade of damage from ignoring problems through winter can easily reach **$5,000 to $15,000** across fascia, interior water damage, and foundation issues. If your eavestroughs need attention before winter, the Ottawa Construction Network directory at **justynrookcontracting.com** can help you find a professional quickly.

Q16

Are My Alta Vista Eavestroughs Original and Need Replacing

Alta Vista is one of Ottawa's classic post-war neighbourhoods, with most homes built between the **late 1940s and early 1970s**. If your eavestroughs have never been replaced, they're likely **50 to 75 years old** and well past their functional lifespan — even the best aluminum gutters typically last **25 to 35 years** in Ottawa's demanding climate.

Signs You're Looking at Original Eavestroughs

The easiest tell is the **type of gutter system**. Homes built in Alta Vista during the 1950s and 1960s typically had **galvanized steel eavestroughs** installed, often in sectional pieces joined with slip connectors. If your gutters are a dull grey metal showing **rust streaks** running down the fascia and siding, they're almost certainly the original galvanized steel. Some later Alta Vista homes (mid-1960s to 1970s) received early **aluminum sectional gutters** with visible seams every 10 feet — these pre-date the seamless roll-forming technology that became standard in the 1980s.

Look at the **hanger system**. Original installations in Alta Vista often used **spike-and-ferrule hangers** — long nails driven through the front of the gutter, through a metal tube (ferrule), and into the fascia board. This outdated method loosens over decades as the fascia wood shrinks and the spikes work free from freeze-thaw cycling. Modern installations use **hidden bracket hangers** screwed into the fascia at **18 to 24-inch intervals**, which grip far more securely under Ottawa's snow loads.

Check for these specific failure signs that indicate replacement rather than repair. **Multiple leaking seams** along the gutter run mean the sealant and connections have deteriorated beyond spot-fix territory. **Gutters pulling away from the fascia** in multiple locations indicate the hangers and fascia mounting points have failed systemically. **Standing water** visible in the gutter even during dry weather means the slope has shifted from decades of settling, ice loading, and hanger failure. **Extensive paint peeling or surface pitting** on the gutter interior suggests the protective coating has broken down and corrosion is active.

If the fascia board behind your original eavestroughs is **soft, spongy, or visibly rotted**, it will need replacement before new gutters can be mounted — this is common in Alta Vista homes where original gutters have leaked behind the gutter profile for years. Fascia replacement adds **$12 to $25 per linear foot** to the project.

Replacing original eavestroughs on a typical Alta Vista bungalow with **seamless aluminum** costs **$1,500 to $3,000** for a complete system including removal and disposal of the old gutters. Given that most Alta Vista homes sit under **mature maples and oaks**, adding gutter guards at **$10 to $25 per linear foot** is a worthwhile investment. To get quotes from experienced professionals, browse the Ottawa Construction Network directory at **justynrookcontracting.com**.

Q17

Why Eavestrough Seams Separate in Ottawa Winters and How to Fix Them

Eavestrough seam separation is one of the most common gutter failures in Ottawa, and the city's extreme winter climate is the primary driver. Understanding why seams pull apart helps you fix the problem properly and prevent it from recurring.

Why Ottawa Winters Destroy Eavestrough Seams

Sectional eavestroughs are assembled from pre-cut lengths, typically **10-foot sections**, joined at seams with overlap connections and sealed with gutter sealant. Every one of these seams is a potential failure point, and Ottawa's climate attacks them relentlessly. The core problem is **thermal expansion and contraction**. Aluminum expands approximately **1 millimetre per metre for every 10 degrees Celsius** of temperature change. With Ottawa experiencing temperature swings of **65 degrees or more** between summer highs and winter lows, a 10-foot eavestrough section moves nearly **7 millimetres** between seasons. This constant pushing and pulling gradually breaks the sealant bond at each seam.

Ice loading compounds the problem. When water freezes inside the gutter at a seam joint, the expanding ice pushes the two sections apart with tremendous force. Ottawa's **50-plus annual freeze-thaw cycles** mean this happens dozens of times per winter, each cycle working the seam open a fraction further. By spring, a seam that was watertight in October is now dripping steadily.

Snow weight also contributes to seam failure. Heavy wet snow accumulating on eavestrough edges pushes the gutter downward, and the weakest point in the system — the seam — is where the gutter buckles or separates. If hangers are spaced too far apart (more than **24 inches**, which is the maximum recommended spacing for Ottawa), the unsupported span between hangers flexes under snow load, stressing the nearest seam.

To fix a separated seam, start by cleaning the joint thoroughly. Remove all old sealant using a putty knife and wire brush, then clean both mating surfaces with rubbing alcohol. Apply a bead of **high-quality gutter sealant rated for temperatures down to minus 40 degrees Celsius** — products like Geocel or Loctite PL Roof and Flashing Sealant perform well in Ottawa conditions. Standard silicone caulking is **not appropriate** for eavestrough seams because it does not adhere well to aluminum and becomes rigid in extreme cold.

For seams that have separated significantly, you may need to re-rivet the joint before sealing. Pop rivets at **3-inch intervals** along the overlap, combined with a full bead of sealant behind the overlap, create a strong mechanical connection that resists thermal movement. Apply sealant on the inside of the gutter along the entire seam length, smoothing it with a wet finger to create a continuous waterproof line.

The best long-term solution for chronic seam leaks is to replace sectional eavestroughs with **seamless aluminum eavestroughs**. Seamless systems are formed on-site from a continuous coil of aluminum, eliminating joints along straight runs entirely. The only seams in a seamless system occur at inside corners, outside corners, and end caps. Seamless replacement for a typical Ottawa home costs **$2,500 to $5,000**, and the reduced maintenance and leak-free performance make it worthwhile for homes where seam failure is a recurring problem. If your seam repairs are becoming an annual ritual, it may be time for a full replacement. Browse eavestrough professionals through the Ottawa Construction Network directory at justynrookcontracting.com.

Q18

Stop Water Going Behind Eavestroughs in Ottawa

Water running behind your eavestroughs and staining your soffit is one of the most common eavestrough complaints in Ottawa, and it almost always points to one of a few fixable problems. Ignoring it leads to **soffit rot, fascia damage, and potential moisture intrusion** into your attic space — especially dangerous through Ottawa's freeze-thaw winter when trapped moisture expands as ice.

Why Water Gets Behind the Gutter

The most frequent cause is **improper eavestrough positioning**. Your gutter should be installed so the back edge tucks up underneath the drip edge flashing — the thin metal strip that extends over the edge of your roof deck. If the drip edge is too short, missing entirely, or if the eavestrough was mounted too low, water sheets off the shingles, overshoots the gutter lip, and runs down the back side onto the fascia and soffit. This is extremely common on Ottawa homes built before the 1990s where drip edge installation was inconsistent.

The fix for a missing or short drip edge is installing **new aluminum drip edge flashing** that extends far enough to direct water into the gutter channel. This is a relatively inexpensive repair — **$3 to $6 per linear foot for materials** and **$5 to $12 per linear foot installed** in Ottawa. A good installer will slide the drip edge under the first row of shingles and bend it slightly into the gutter trough to create a reliable water path.

Clogged eavestroughs are the second most common cause. When leaves, shingle grit, and debris build up in your gutters — particularly common in treed Ottawa neighbourhoods like the Glebe, Sandy Hill, and Old Ottawa South — water backs up and overflows in every direction, including behind the gutter. Regular cleaning in **late spring and late November** prevents this. Professional cleaning runs **$150 to $350 per visit** in Ottawa, and seasonal packages covering both cleanings cost **$250 to $600 annually**.

Sagging or improperly sloped eavestroughs cause water to pool in low spots rather than flowing toward downspouts. Standing water eventually overflows at the weakest point. Ottawa's heavy snow loads accelerate sagging, especially if hangers are spaced more than **24 inches apart**. Re-sloping or adding hangers is a straightforward repair costing **$150 to $400** depending on the length involved.

Ice dams during Ottawa's winter create another pathway for water behind eavestroughs. When ice builds up at the roof edge during our **50-plus annual freeze-thaw cycles**, meltwater has nowhere to go and backs up under shingles and behind gutters. Proper **attic insulation to R-60** and adequate soffit ventilation are the real solutions to ice dams — no eavestrough modification alone will fix the root cause.

For the soffit staining you already have, a mixture of **warm water, mild dish soap, and a soft-bristle brush** removes most water stains from aluminum or vinyl soffit. Stubborn oxidation stains may need a specialized aluminum cleaner. If the staining has progressed to soft or spongy spots in wood soffit, you likely have rot that needs professional repair before the damage spreads to your roof structure. Connect with experienced eavestrough and soffit professionals through the Ottawa Construction Network directory at **justynrookcontracting.com** to get the problem assessed properly.

Q19

Eavestrough Overflow on One Section – Causes and Fixes in Ottawa

When eavestroughs overflow on just one section of your home during rain while the rest of the system works fine, the problem is almost always localized — and in most cases, fixable without replacing the entire gutter system. Ottawa's intense summer thunderstorms, which can dump **25 to 50 millimetres of rain per hour**, expose weak points in your eavestrough system that lighter rainfall masks. Here is what to investigate.

Diagnosing Localized Overflow

The **most common cause** of single-section overflow is a **localized clog**. Debris tends to accumulate at specific points — where a valley sends concentrated roof runoff into the gutter, near downspout openings where leaves collect against the strainer, or at inside corners where two gutter runs meet. In treed Ottawa neighbourhoods like the Glebe, Rockcliffe Park, and Sandy Hill, a single cluster of branches overhanging one section of roof can deposit enough leaves and debris to block that section while the rest of the system stays clear. Check the downspout connection first — remove the strainer basket and look for compacted debris in the downspout opening. A blocked downspout causes the attached gutter section to fill and overflow while the rest drains normally.

Improper slope in one section is the second most common cause. Eavestroughs require a slope of at least **one quarter inch per 10 feet** toward the nearest downspout. Over time, Ottawa's heavy snow loads — wet snow can weigh **200 to 500 kilograms per cubic metre** — pull hangers downward, creating low spots or even reverse-sloping sections that trap water. If you look along the gutter line from one end, a dip or belly in the problem section is usually visible. Re-sloping that section by adjusting hangers costs **$150 to $400** in Ottawa.

A **missing or undersized downspout** serving the problem section can also cause localized overflow. Each downspout on a residential system handles a specific section of gutter. If one downspout serves a section beneath a large or steep roof area, it may not drain water fast enough during Ottawa's heaviest downpours. The standard **2 by 3 inch residential downspout** can handle approximately 600 square feet of roof area. If the overflowing section collects water from a larger area — especially a steep roof that accelerates water flow — upgrading to a **3 by 4 inch downspout** or adding a second downspout solves the problem. Adding a downspout costs **$200 to $600** installed in Ottawa.

Damaged or separated seams in one section can cause water to leak at the joint rather than flowing to the downspout, creating the appearance of overflow from outside. Check the problem section on a dry day by running a garden hose — if water drips from a seam inside the gutter, reseal it with **tripolymer gutter sealant** (about **$8 to $15 per tube**) for a straightforward DIY fix.

Finally, check whether a **roof valley** directs concentrated water flow onto the overflowing section. Valley runoff hits the gutter with far more force and volume than sheet-flow from a standard roof plane, and it can overwhelm a standard 5-inch K-style gutter. A **splash guard** or diverter installed at the valley point prevents water from overshooting the gutter edge. If you cannot pinpoint the cause, an experienced eavestrough professional can diagnose the issue quickly — browse contractors through the Ottawa Construction Network directory at **justynrookcontracting.com**.

Q20

Minimum Temperature for Eavestrough Sealant in Ottawa

Yes, temperature matters significantly when applying eavestrough sealant, and Ottawa's climate means you have a more limited window for effective sealing than homeowners in milder parts of Ontario. Most eavestrough sealants have specific minimum application temperatures printed on the tube, and ignoring these limits leads to failed seals that leak at the first thaw.

Temperature Requirements for Gutter Sealant in Ottawa

Standard silicone-based gutter sealants require a minimum application temperature of **5 to 10 degrees Celsius** for proper adhesion and curing. **Polyurethane sealants**, which are the preferred choice for eavestrough work because of their flexibility and waterproof bond, typically need at least **5 degrees Celsius** and perform best above 10 degrees. **Butyl rubber sealants** — the thick, sticky type that comes in caulking tubes — are more forgiving and can sometimes be applied down to **0 degrees Celsius**, but they cure much more slowly in cold conditions and may not achieve full bond strength.

The critical factor is not just air temperature but **surface temperature**. On a sunny April morning in Ottawa, the air might read 8 degrees Celsius, but aluminum eavestroughs in shade on the north side of your home could still be near freezing. Conversely, south-facing gutters in direct afternoon sun can be warm enough for sealing even when the air temperature is marginal. **Always check the actual gutter surface temperature** with an infrared thermometer or by touch before applying sealant.

For Ottawa homeowners, this means the reliable sealing season runs from **mid-April through late October** in most years. Early spring and late fall applications are risky because overnight temperatures often drop below freezing, and sealant that has not fully cured before a freeze can crack and lose adhesion. Most sealants need **24 to 48 hours above the minimum temperature** to cure properly. Check the Ottawa weather forecast for overnight lows before starting — a warm afternoon followed by a minus-5 night will compromise your seal.

Surface preparation is just as important as temperature. Clean the joint thoroughly with a wire brush and wipe it down with rubbing alcohol or a degreaser to remove old sealant residue, oxidation, and grime. Applying new sealant over old, failed sealant is the most common DIY mistake and produces a bond that fails within one season. For seam repairs on seamless aluminum eavestroughs, use a **gutter-specific polyurethane sealant** rated for metal-to-metal bonding — products like Geocel or Loctite PL Gutter Sealant cost **$8 to $15 per tube** at Ottawa hardware stores and are formulated for the thermal cycling that Ottawa's **65-degree annual temperature swing** demands.

If your eavestroughs have multiple failing seams or widespread leakage, patching individual joints may not be cost-effective. A full eavestrough repair assessment from a professional typically costs **$150 to $500**, and in many cases replacing aging sectional gutters with a seamless system at **$8 to $18 per linear foot** is the better long-term investment. Browse eavestrough professionals through the Ottawa Construction Network directory at justynrookcontracting.com to get quotes before the busy fall season.

Q21

Fix Brick Staining from Overflowing Eavestroughs in Ottawa

Those dark streaks running down your brick are a telltale sign that your eavestroughs have been overflowing, and it is a problem Ottawa homeowners deal with constantly thanks to our heavy rainfall, autumn leaf loading, and spring snowmelt volumes. The staining itself is usually a combination of **mineral deposits, algae growth, and tannin** from decomposing leaves that overflow water carries down the brick face. The good news is that most brick staining from eavestrough overflow is cosmetic and removable — but the real fix is addressing the overflow that caused it.

Cleaning the Stains and Preventing Recurrence

For light staining that has been there less than a year, start with **oxygen bleach** (sodium percarbonate, sold as OxiClean or similar) mixed with warm water. Apply the solution to the stained brick, let it sit for **15 to 20 minutes**, then scrub with a stiff-bristled brush and rinse thoroughly. Oxygen bleach is safer than chlorine bleach for brick because it will not damage the mortar joints or kill surrounding vegetation. For stubborn staining, a **dedicated masonry cleaner** from a building supply store costs **$15 to $30** per container and is formulated specifically for mineral and organic stains on brick.

For severe staining that has built up over multiple seasons — dark black or green streaks that do not respond to scrubbing — you may need **professional pressure washing**. A professional exterior cleaning service in Ottawa charges **$200 to $500** for brick cleaning on a typical home. The pressure must be kept below **1,500 PSI** on brick to

avoid damaging mortar joints, which is why professional equipment with adjustable pressure and fan-tip nozzles produces better results than most homeowner-grade pressure washers.

However, cleaning the brick without fixing the eavestrough overflow is just treating the symptom. The overflow itself is caused by one or more of these issues: **clogged gutters** from Ottawa's heavy autumn leaf fall (especially in neighbourhoods like the Glebe, Rockcliffe, and Old Ottawa South), **insufficient eavestrough slope** that causes standing water, **undersized gutters** that cannot handle peak flow from steep or large roof areas, or **damaged seams and joints** that leak water down the fascia.

A professional eavestrough cleaning in Ottawa costs **$150 to $350** and should be done at minimum twice per year — once in late November after all leaves have fallen and once in spring after the thaw. If your home is surrounded by mature trees, installing **gutter guards** at **$10 to $25 per linear foot** eliminates the primary cause of clogging and overflow. Also check that your eavestrough slope is at least **one-quarter inch per 10 feet** toward the nearest downspout — insufficient slope causes water to pool and overflow during heavy rain.

To find eavestrough professionals who can diagnose and fix the overflow problem at its source, browse the Ottawa Construction Network directory at **justynrookcontracting.com** and look for contractors experienced with gutter maintenance and repair.

Q22

Are Your Eavestroughs Causing a Wet Basement in Ottawa?

A wet basement is one of the most stressful problems an Ottawa homeowner can face, and your eavestroughs are often the most likely culprit — or at least a major contributing factor. Before spending thousands on interior waterproofing or foundation repair, it is worth investigating whether your gutter system is directing roof runoff exactly where it should not go: right against your foundation walls.

Diagnosing the Eavestrough-to-Basement Connection

Start with a simple observation test during a **heavy rainfall**. Go outside and watch your eavestrough system in action. Look for water overflowing the gutters rather than flowing to the downspouts, which indicates clogged gutters, insufficient slope, or undersized five-inch gutters that cannot handle your roof's drainage area. Check each downspout — water should be discharging **at least 1.8 metres from the foundation** as required by the **Ontario Building Code**, and ideally 3 metres or more on Ottawa's clay-heavy soil. If downspouts dump water right at the foundation or the extensions have been removed or knocked aside, you have found a likely cause.

Ottawa's **Leda clay soil** is particularly problematic because it has extremely low permeability. Water that pools near the foundation sits there for days or weeks rather than draining away, creating sustained hydrostatic pressure against basement walls. A single disconnected or missing downspout extension can dump **hundreds of litres** of water against the foundation during a summer thunderstorm — more than enough to find its way through any small crack or porous section of concrete.

Check for these specific signs that point to eavestroughs as the cause. If your **basement leaks only during or shortly after rain** (not during dry spells or spring thaw from rising groundwater), the source is almost certainly surface water — and eavestroughs are the primary surface water management system. If the leaks appear on **one specific wall**, go outside and check the eavestrough and downspout situation on that side of the house. A clogged gutter section or missing downspout on the corresponding exterior wall is strong evidence. If you see **water stains or erosion channels** in the soil directly below gutter overflow points, that confirms water is being concentrated at the foundation.

The fix may be surprisingly affordable compared to interior waterproofing. A professional eavestrough cleaning costs **$150 to $350** in Ottawa. Adding or extending downspouts to achieve proper setback costs **$200 to $600 per downspout**. Re-sloping sagging eavestrough sections to restore proper drainage runs **$150 to $400**. Compare that to interior basement waterproofing at **$8,000 to $15,000** or exterior foundation waterproofing at **$10,000 to $25,000**, and you can see why fixing the eavestroughs first makes financial sense.

If cleaning and extending your downspouts does not resolve the basement moisture within one or two rain events, the problem may involve foundation cracks, failed weeping tile, or groundwater pressure that requires professional assessment. But in a surprising number of Ottawa homes, simply getting the eavestrough system working properly eliminates or dramatically reduces basement water problems. Browse eavestrough and waterproofing contractors through the Ottawa Construction Network directory at **justynrookcontracting.com** for professional help diagnosing and solving the problem.

Q23

Standing Water in Eavestroughs and Corrosion Risk in Ottawa

Standing water in your eavestroughs is one of the most damaging conditions you can allow to persist, and yes, it absolutely accelerates corrosion — though the specific type of damage depends on your gutter material. If you see pools of water sitting in your gutters for more than 48 hours after rainfall, you have a slope problem that needs correcting before it leads to expensive repairs or premature replacement.

<h2>How Standing Water Damages Different Eavestrough Materials</h2>

Aluminum eavestroughs, which account for roughly 85 percent of Ottawa installations, do not rust in the traditional sense because aluminum does not contain iron. However, standing water causes a different form of corrosion called pitting corrosion, where acidic debris tea — created by decomposing leaves, pine needles, and organic matter soaking in water — eats through the protective oxide layer on the aluminum surface. In Ottawa's heavily treed neighbourhoods like the Glebe, Old Ottawa South, and Westboro, this organic-acid corrosion can eat pinholes through standard 0.027-inch gauge aluminum in as few as 8 to 12 years if water is allowed to pool consistently. The baked-on enamel finish on the interior breaks down where water sits constantly, exposing bare aluminum to accelerated attack.

Galvanized steel eavestroughs are far more vulnerable to standing water damage. The zinc galvanizing layer deteriorates rapidly when submerged in water, especially the acidic debris water common in fall. Once the zinc is breached, the underlying steel rusts aggressively. In Ottawa's wet climate with frequent rain and snowmelt, standing water in steel gutters can cause visible rust perforation within 5 to 8 years. Steel systems cost $10 to $22 per linear foot installed in Ottawa, and premature rust failure erases the value of that investment quickly.

Beyond material corrosion, standing water in Ottawa creates serious secondary problems. In winter, pooled water freezes and expands, putting enormous stress on seams and hanger attachments — this is a leading cause of eavestrough separation from the fascia after Ottawa's freeze-thaw cycles. In summer, standing

water becomes a breeding ground for mosquitoes, which can produce a new generation of larvae in as little as seven days in warm weather. The extra weight of standing water — water weighs approximately one kilogram per litre — also pulls eavestroughs down further, worsening the slope problem in a vicious cycle.

The fix for standing water is re-sloping the affected section to achieve a minimum drop of one quarter inch per 10 feet of run toward the nearest downspout. An Ottawa eavestrough professional can re-slope a section for $150 to $400 depending on accessibility and length. If the standing water is caused by a belly or sag in the middle of a long run, adding a mid-run downspout at $200 to $600 can solve the problem permanently while improving the system's overall capacity for Ottawa's heavy thunderstorms. The Ottawa Construction Network directory at justynrookcontracting.com can connect you with local eavestrough professionals who can diagnose and correct slope issues before corrosion takes hold.

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Stop Eavestrough Overflow During Heavy Ottawa Thunderstorms

Eavestroughs that handle normal rain just fine but overflow during heavy Ottawa thunderstorms are almost always dealing with a capacity or drainage bottleneck rather than a clog. Ottawa experiences intense summer convective storms that can dump 25 to 50 millimetres of rainfall in under an hour, and these bursts overwhelm systems that are undersized, under-drained, or both. The good news is that this is a solvable problem with targeted upgrades rather than a full replacement.

<h2>Diagnosing and Fixing Storm Overflow</h2>

Start by watching exactly where the overflow occurs during the next heavy rain. If water sheets over the front lip evenly along a long run, your gutters are likely undersized for your roof area. Standard five-inch K-style eavestroughs handle about 5,500 square feet of roof drainage area, but steep roofs, large dormers, and valley convergence points concentrate water and effectively double the load on certain sections. Upgrading overflow-prone sections to six-inch K-style gutters increases capacity by roughly 40 percent and costs $12 to $22 per linear foot installed in Ottawa — you do not necessarily need to upgrade the entire house, just the problem areas.

If the overflow happens specifically at or near downspout locations, the bottleneck is almost certainly your downspout size or quantity. Standard two-by-three-inch downspouts cannot drain a five-inch

gutter fast enough during peak Ottawa storms. Upgrading to three-by-four-inch downspouts at $200 to $600 each installed dramatically improves drainage. Another highly effective solution is adding additional downspouts to reduce the maximum run length that any single downspout must drain. A good rule for Ottawa is one downspout per 30 to 35 linear feet of gutter, compared to the 40-foot spacing that works in drier climates.

Check your downspout strainers — those wire cage or basket fittings at the top of each downspout. In Ottawa's tree-heavy neighbourhoods, these can partially clog with leaf debris during a storm, creating a dam right at the drain point. During heavy rain, even 50 percent blockage at the strainer can cause backup and overflow along the entire gutter run. Cleaning or replacing strainers in early summer and after fall leaf drop makes a noticeable difference.

If your eavestroughs have gutter guards installed, the guards themselves can sometimes cause storm overflow. Screen-type and reverse-curve guards work by allowing water to flow through or around a barrier, but during extreme downpours the water volume exceeds the guard's intake rate and simply sheets over the top. Micro-mesh guards at $18 to $30 per linear foot in Ottawa handle heavy rain better than basic screen guards because the fine mesh creates surface tension that draws water into the trough. However, even micro-mesh has limits during the most extreme storms.

One often-overlooked cause of storm-specific overflow is splash from valley discharge. Where two roof planes meet in a valley, water concentrates into a fast-moving stream that hits the gutter with enough force to splash over the far edge. A splash guard — a simple L-shaped metal deflector — installed at the valley discharge point for $30 to $75 each solves this problem permanently. An experienced eavestrough contractor can identify all the contributing factors during a single inspection. Browse the Ottawa Construction Network directory at justynrookcontracting.com to find a professional who can assess your system and recommend the most cost-effective fix.
