

The purpose of this article is to advise homeowners how to prevent damage to gutters and protect fascia boards from rot. Prevention involves 2 separate but equally important steps.

1. Replace gutters with existing outmoded spike and ferrule attachment systems.
2. Protect the fascia board with a gutter protection system that both covers and protects.

IF YOUR GUTTERS ARE ATTACHED WITH SPIKE & FERRULE? DID YOU KNOW ...

In time, your rain gutters (without maintenance or intervention) will eventually be pushed off your house and fall to the ground. And, in time, your fascia boards, to which your gutters are attached, will rot. Even if the fascia is cedar (which is naturally rot resistant) and even if the fascia is covered with aluminum or vinyl - they will rot. Fascia board rot happens very slowly, imperceptibly, and it happens because water always wins.

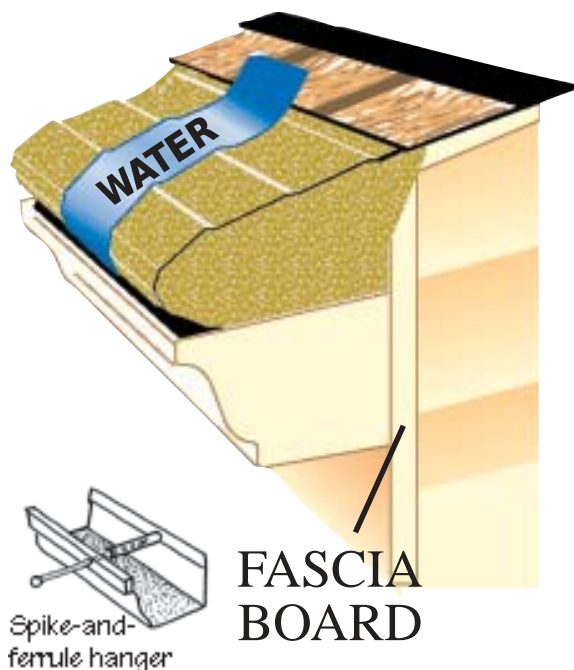
When your downspouts are blocked by wet leaves and debris, the gutters fill up and overflow with rain, snow and ice. Repeated contact with moisture in all these forms can cause your fascia board to wick moisture into itself and rot. Spikes driven into wood that becomes rotten will not hold. Plus, factor in the tremendous downward pressure from the weight of ice and snow. Snow and ice in and on the gutter cause the entire gutter system to bend downward slightly. When the ice and snow melt, the gutters return to their original positions - almost. As this cycle goes on for many years the spikes slowly start to loosen. Spikes begin to slowly back out and become "proud" which means they protrude more and more from the face of the gutter, until they eventually fall to the ground. Pounding loose spikes back into place is only a temporary fix because the hole has been compromised. When enough spikes come loose or fall out, the gutters will fall off.

When the rain runs off the roof and into the gutters the cylindrical ferrule (into which the 8" aluminum spike rests) channels and directs water back into the fascia board. This is the problem with spike and ferrule attachment. You may think that this can't happen to your home because you have aluminum or vinyl "skin" covering your fascia. Actually, it's a worse situation because water still gets in through these protective skins, but cannot escape or evaporate - the boards cannot breathe. It's like placing a wet sock in a ziplock bag and tossing it outside. How long do you think it will take for the

sock to dry out?

To avoid these kinds of problems and enjoy the additional benefit of never having to clean your gutters again you should consider a gutter protection system. Ask the following questions and get satisfactory answers before making an investment.

1. Will the gutters be attached with premium hidden hangers or spike and ferrule?
2. Does the gutter protection system cover and protect the fascia board?
3. Will the gutter protection system gently lift and strengthen the gutter system?
4. Does the gutter protection system offer a lifetime transferable warranty?
5. Will the gutter protection system prevent your house from rotting from the top down?



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