



Cleaning Gutters and Drainpipes

Cleaning gutters and downpipes is a useful habit to get into. Overflows can cause damp to enter brickwork and damage the interior of your home.

The Guttering System

Basic guttering systems are made up of gutter channeling fixed in a way that allows rainwater to drain towards outlets. The gutters are connected to downpipes that pass water at the base into a stormwater disposal system and guides the water away from walls and footings. If you have problems with overflow, always ensure downpipes and gutters are of a sufficient size and number to deal with the amounts of water that passes through them.

Stormwater disposal systems consist of soakwells or sumps of sufficient capacity (volume) to contain and/or disperse rainwater on the site. In some instances, especially for small lots and in clay soil, there will be an overflow or silt pit connection into a council stormwater drain.

Causes of Damp via Gutters

- Blockages in the gutter or downpipe
- Leaks caused by rusty or damaged joints
- Sagging gutter caused by overloading or faulty brackets

Clearing a Blocked Gutter

Always work from downpipe outlet towards the stop end - this prevents debris being pushed down the pipe. You can use a garden trowel or a piece of wood, or cut a piece of hardboard or plywood to the shape of the gutter to create a smooth scraping action along the gutter. Check the system is flowing adequately by pouring a bucket of water down - a good way of checking for leaks. Consider painting metal gutters with a bitumen product or a hardwearing paint suitable for metal surfaces. A couple of coats should prevent corrosion and the risk of leakage.

Clearing a Blocked Downpipe

Always check for blockages below a leak. Place a bucket or tray under the downpipe to catch debris. Clean the bent section of the downpipe and the shoe at the bottom with wire as both these locations can attract obstacles - an old wire coat hanger can be bent to suit this purpose. The main part of the downpipe can be cleaned by feeding the garden hose through from the top.

Regular Maintenance

If gutters and downpipes are checked regularly, then long-term the guttering system will stay in good shape. A little work occasionally can be enough to prevent major problems.

- ***Please call City of Gosnells Building Services for further information - 9397 3000***