

ASK THE EXPERT:

****Attention all readers!!!! If you have a plumbing or heating question, please call our office! We may use your question in the paper! ****

Q How often do you need to clean or maybe replace the gutters of your house? Mine don't seem to be working right. I get areas where there is no water and other areas where it splashes over the top and gushes water. There are also a couple of places where it looks like some of the gutters are hanging lower than normal. I have no idea how long ago they were installed since I only moved in 5 years ago.

- From, Kevin in Sturtevant

A Unfortunately I think your issue is more about your gutters needing maintenance and not age. Because of our cold weather lately, and what you are describing, I believe there are likely leaves and other debris that has gathered in your gutters since fall - more in some areas than others - which will keep some of the downspouts from draining properly and then they overflow in other areas. The bigger issue for you is that debris has now become clogged and frozen solid. Those clogged areas freezing can create much bigger problems since that water needs somewhere to go when it melts, and it can often find its way behind siding and insulation and into your walls. This opens up the potential for multiple other expensive problems and damage. I would suggest you get out ASAP and get those gutters all checked and cleared on a warm day so everything flows properly and out and away from your house's foundation. Please don't put this off Kevin!

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