



WATER DAMAGE:

**16 EXPENSIVE PROBLEMS CAUSED BY
CLOGGED GUTTERS**

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Water damage is often hidden, discovered late and, once found, expensive to deal with. Sadly, a simple clogged gutter is often the source of the problem. Keeping gutters clean is a job that most people avoid doing as frequently as is typically needed and can lead directly to these sixteen problems.

While pricing to repair this damage can vary greatly across the country, our simple pricing range can give you an understanding of which issues are least to most costly to address.

1. Basement Water

A wet basement is not only an inconvenience - it can also signal other problems. One of the major causes of basement water is that somewhere there's a gutter clog, leading water to leak through window wells or to seep through your foundation. Water damage in your basement can be a major expense, often requiring a claim under your homeowner insurance policy.

Potential Cost: \$ - \$\$

2. Foundation Repair

Cracks in your home's foundation can be a sign that the structural integrity of the house is suffering from water damage. These cracks can be caused by the freezing and thawing effect of unwanted water around the foundation, resulting from overflowing gutters. Foundation



repair can be very expensive. Make sure that downspouts drain 4-5 feet away from their walls.

Potential Cost: \$\$ - \$\$\$

3. Roof Repair

A gutter clog can force rainwater to travel up the roof under the shingles, ultimately causing a roof leak. In winter, clogged or frozen gutters can act like ice dams, pushing moisture up under the shingles, and also causing a roof leak. If your gutters regularly fill up with shingle grit, it is a sign of rapid roof aging and should be investigated further, as you may need immediate roof repair.

Potential Cost: \$\$ - \$\$\$

4. Siding Repair

As water follows the path of least resistance, it can often invade the space around your home's siding, causing it to sag and break. Gutter clogs are a major cause of water diverting from your chosen path. Instead of flowing through the gutter and away from your home, water backs up and seeps behind the siding, ultimately necessitating siding repair.

Potential Cost: \$\$ - \$\$\$

5. Wall Repair/Ceiling Repair

Water seeping over a clogged gutter follows the path of least resistance. It can accumulate in the skin of your home and work its way into walls and ceilings. Water can leak from the back of your gutters and find its way into joists and seams. The resulting water damage can cause sheetrock to pull away from joists and weaken the structural integrity of your home. Wall repair or ceiling repair is a costly undertaking.

Potential Cost: \$\$ - \$\$\$

6. Wood Repair

A major cause of wood rot is water seeping over a clogged gutter and into the sides of your house. Wood rot is unsightly and leads to structural weaknesses. Even more troubling is water that infiltrates into the skin of your home and isn't visible from the outside. The problem may be extensive and any necessary wood repair should be addressed quickly.

Potential Cost: \$ - \$\$

7. Peeling Paint

After spending hard-earned money on a paint job for your home, it's disappointing to see it peel and chip prematurely. Not only is it unsightly, but it jeopardizes the protective skin of your house. Peeling paint is often caused by trapped moisture, due to water flowing over clogged gutters and along the sides of your house.

Potential Cost: \$\$



8. Mold and Mildew

Trapped moisture, caused by water overflow from clogged gutters, can allow mold producing fungi to grow on the wooden surfaces outside and inside your home. Wallboard, ceiling tiles, caulk and insulation provide mold spores with a hospitable environment, allowing colonies to spread on walls, in corners, around air ducts, and near pipes. Mold and mildew lead to poor indoor air quality which

contributes to asthma and other respiratory problems. Once it's a problem, mold removal can be a difficult task.

Potential Cost: \$\$ - \$\$\$

9. Driveway Repair

A gutter clog that prevents the free flow of water through your home's rain gutter system can lead to overflows and pooling. This water can get under your driveway and cause it to heave, crack or buckle. Eventually, you'll be eating the cost of driveway repair.

Potential Cost: \$\$

10. Walkways Have a Slippery Surface

The same issues that affect driveways can also damage walkways. In addition, walkways can become hazardous due to moss and fungi growth. Either of these problems will cause walkways to have a slippery surface and be treacherous for your family and guests. Water overflowing from clogged gutters is a likely culprit.

Potential Cost: \$ - \$\$

11. Landscaping

The landscaping that surrounds your home enhances its beauty and should also help to draw water away from the house. After the expense of planting and maintaining your yard, it's disappointing when landscaping gets that washed-out, eroded look. Clogged and overflowing rain gutters are a major cause of this problem.

Potential Cost: \$\$ - \$\$\$

12. Mosquitoes

Clogs cause water to stand still in your home's gutters. According to the Centers for Disease Control, this standing water is a perfect environment for the breeding of the mosquito and other disease-carrying insects. West Nile virus carrying mosquitoes can breed in as little as a few tablespoons of water. MasterShield can help with mosquito control.

Potential Cost: \$



13. Termites

Trapped moisture in wood due to the side-effects of clogged gutters attracts carpenter ants, termites and other insects from more than 100 yards away. Wood is eaten away and the resulting damage can cause structural problems. MasterShield keeps gutters clean and dry, and acts as pest control for your house.

Potential Cost: \$ - \$\$

14. Bird Nest or Bee Hive

A clogged gutters filled with moist, soft debris is a perfect habitat for a bird nest or bee hive. MasterShield completely encloses a gutter, keeping birds and bees out; it's pest control for your house.

Potential Cost: \$

15. Animal Control

Water damage caused by gutter clogs can rot the wood in your home (see *Rotten Wood*) and lead to animal control problems. The rotten wood allows little critters to eat through to the comfort of your attic and to make your home theirs.

Potential Cost: \$

16. Ladder Safety

Climbing up ladders and onto your roof to do some gutter cleaning can be an accident waiting to happen. Most of us are not experienced at ladder safety or walking on roofs; slips and falls are common. Think of MasterShield Gutter Protection as an accident reduction program.

Potential Cost: ???

