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One of the many factors that you'll have to keep tabs on is your gutters. For example, did you realize that it's a good idea to replace your gutters, especially if they need it? Gutters are an extremely important part of your home. They lead rain water away from your house, preventing problems such as flooded basements and damaged foundations. But how do you know if it's time to replace your rain gutters? Read on for three ways that you can tell if those gutters need to be replaced.

1. Visible mold or water stains

Take some time to walk the perimeter of your home, looking closely at the fascia and walls. If you see mold or water stains, then you're most likely going to have to suck it up and replace your gutters. Water stains and mold are both signs that your rain gutters aren't doing their job. Another good indicator that your gutters aren't working properly? Rust.

2. Your gutters don't look all that hot

This is probably the most obvious way to tell if your gutters need to be replaced—they simply don't look all that great. Walk around your home and focus on your gutters. They shouldn't have any holes or cracks in them, and they should have very minimal visible rust. Furthermore, all their fasteners should be in good condition. Your rain gutters should ideally be very tight against your home's fascia. If all of this checks out, then walk away from your home and look at the gutters from a good distance. If you see any bent or warped areas in your gutters, then consider replacing them. Not only do all of these things mean that your gutters may not be working correctly, but they also take away from the curb appeal of your home. New gutters will not only protect your house from water damage and other costly issues—they'll also make your home appear more attracting and appealing.

3. Signs in your landscaping

Another way to ascertain if it's time to replace your gutters is to take a good look at your landscaping. The best time to do this is after a rainstorm or shower. If you see water channels carved into your dirt or mulch, then you can assume that your gutters aren't doing a very good job of keeping water away from your home's foundation.

These are just three ways that you can figure out if it's time to replace your rain gutters. Another few ways that you can determine if you need to replace your gutters are:

- There are small ponds of water near your home following a rainstorm.

- Some sections of your landscaping are getting washed out.

- Some of the sections of your gutters are loose or missing.

It won't take you very long to inspect your gutters in order to determine if replacement is necessary, and it could save you a lot of heartache and financial strain in the future.

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