



## Commonly Used Terms: Gutters

The design of gutter and downspout assemblies demands special attention. Leaking gutters and downspouts can cause serious damage to a building's interior as well as exterior. Maintenance, durability and longevity are important factors to consider when designing gutters and downspouts. Copper is an inherently corrosion resistant material which does not require special coatings to maintain its durability or its appearance.

**Cornice Gutter Lining:** Built in gutters made out of wood or stone and lined with metal, typically found on historic buildings. Metals such as copper or zinc coated copper are commonly used because of its low maintenance, high resistance to corrosion and long life.

**Diverter:** A piece of metal installed on the slope of a roof, shaped like an inverted V or slanted to one side to divert water. Used at entrance ways or sloping canopies, where the appearance of a gutter is not desired or the installation of a gutter is difficult, drainage can be handled by installing a diverter.

**Downspout:** Copper downspouts are usually fabricated using 16 or 20 oz. cold rolled copper. Plain and corrugated, round and rectangular downspouts are typical. Other decorative downspout designs can also be fabricated. Downspout sections are joined together by soldering. Copper straps are used to hold the downspout against the building or structure.

**Flanged Box Gutter:** Can be rectangular or molded (OGEE) in shape installed along the eave has an integral flange which extends up slope under the roofing. Appropriate on most buildings, extremely effective in eliminating ice back up leaks.

**Half Round Gutter:** Attached to the roof eave, they are suspended in a half round hanger. Typically seen on historical homes they can work and look elegant on many buildings.

**Hub:** The large end of a plastic or cast iron underground drain line that extends above grade into which downspouts drain.

**K Style Gutter [OGEE Gutter]:** Molded similar to crown molding, they are attached to the roof eave, hung on hangers attached to the fascia board or under the roofing material.

**Leader Head [Conductor Head]:** Decorative metal box installed on a downspout just below the gutter. Its function is to collect large amounts of water during heavy downpours for discharge into the downspout. In some cases the leader heads serves only a decorative architectural purpose adding a detail of elegance to the gutter system.

**Offset:** The mitered or curved fitting at the top of the downspout that connects to the gutter.

**Outlet:** A drain in the low point of the gutter which drains water into downspouts.

**Scupper:** An opening in a wall or parapet that allows water to drain from a roof. Scuppers can be installed to carry water into gutters or directly into downspouts through conductor heads.



**SUSCA ROOF  
CONSULTING**

860-212-7810 | 860-243-5300 | [info@suscaroof.com](mailto:info@suscaroof.com)