A rain gutter is a component of a water discharge system for a building.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rain_gutter#cite_note-FOOTNOTEChudley1988476-1) It is necessary to prevent water dripping or flowing off roofs in an uncontrolled manner for several reasons: to prevent it damaging the walls, drenching persons standing below or entering the building, and to direct the water to a suitable disposal site where it will not damage the foundations of the building. In the case of a flat roof, removal of water is essential to prevent water ingress and to prevent a build-up of excessive weight.

Gutters prevent water ingress into the fabric of the building by channelling the rainwater away from the exterior of the walls and their foundations. [[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rain_gutter#cite_note-FOOTNOTEMaskrey2012461-5) Water running down the walls causes dampness in the affected rooms and provides a favourable environment for growth of [mould](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mold_(fungus)), and [wet rot](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wet_rot) in timber