

Installation Instructions

Aligator[®] Giant gutter systems



General Guidance

Preparation. Fascia boards should be in good condition, level and in linear alignment (straight). If required, packing shim plates should be fixed at the point of contact with the stiffener/spacer bracket assembly to achieve good alignment. The fascia must be capable of supporting the gutter when full of water, ice or snow. Where gutter is fixed to a PVC-ue cellular fascia board, it is recommended that a timber support framework is installed behind the fascia to provide a straight and secure fixing surface.

Use standard metal work tools to cut or drill aluminium gutters. Angle grinders are not recommended. Where gutter or fittings are polyester powder coated, cut edges should be deburred and repainted with touch up paint, SC880.

As this gutter system does not have external support brackets, it is recommended that two operatives carry out the installation.

Gutter position. Gutters must be installed nominally level or to a fall of 1.600. The gutter should not be positioned at a level which causes rainfall to overshoot the gutter, i.e. too low, or where it is damaged by the high velocity impact of sliding snow, i.e. too high. Access to screws should be maintained.

Snowloading. Heavy snowfall coupled with highly insulated roofs is causing accumulation of snow on roofs. A sudden thaw will then cause the snow to slide down the roof and rest against the gutters if they are fixed too high. Greater care must be taken to make sure the gutters will not impede sliding snow. However, for the ultimate protection, snow guards must be installed.

Jointing. Joint sealing must not be carried out in wet weather or in temperatures below 5°C or above 40°C. Joint surfaces must be perfectly clean and dry. Use a clean cloth and solvent cleaner SC108 to remove all traces of dirt or grease, which may not be visible.

Ensure that the gutter ends align with each other to ensure a stress free joint, allowing for thermal movement within the gutter joint.

Only Alutec high performance low modulus sealant SC101 must be used. Use of other sealants may result in early joint failure. Sealant over nine months old must not be used.

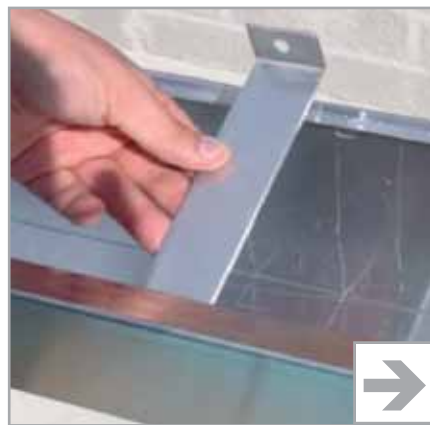
Fixing. To ensure the long term durability of aluminium gutter systems, it is vitally important to ensure that the fixing components are equally durable and capable of providing the necessary support. They must therefore be non corrosive, of a compatible material to ensure no electrolytic corrosion occurs and of the appropriate size. Only the recommended austenitic stainless steel screws must be used to fix gutters, whether direct, fascia or rafter bracket fixed.

If fixing to fascia boards made of materials other than wood, please contact the Alutec technical hotline for advice: 01234 344108.

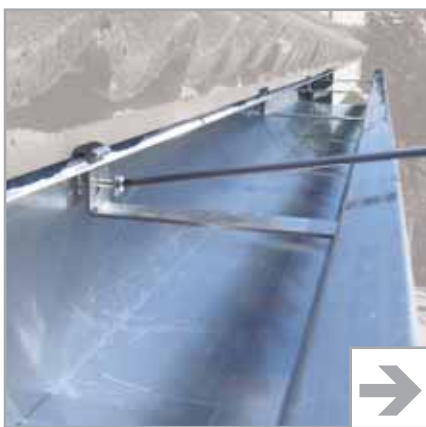
Testing. On completion of an installation, blank off all gutter outlets. Fill gutter to 75% capacity and leave for 5 minutes, then check for leaks. Discharging the flood test water into rainwater pipes will identify any leaks in rainwater pipe joints. Any joints that fail should be taken apart, all sealant cleaned off, then re-sealed and re-tested.



1. Clean all jointing surfaces with clean cloth and solvent cleaner, SC108.



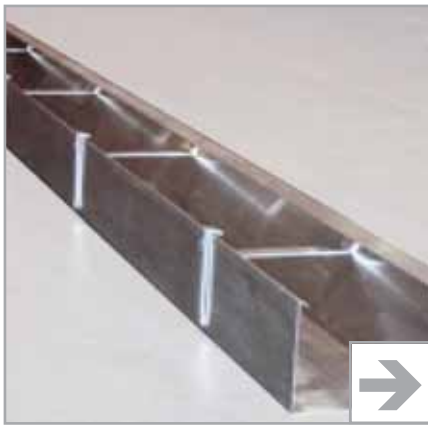
2. Secure stiffener brackets into the top front recess of gutter, in line with the holes to the rear upstand.



6. Whilst temporarily supporting the gutter, fix the gutter to the fascia board through all four fixing holes with 38mm x No 12 screws, SC231, with washers, SC521.



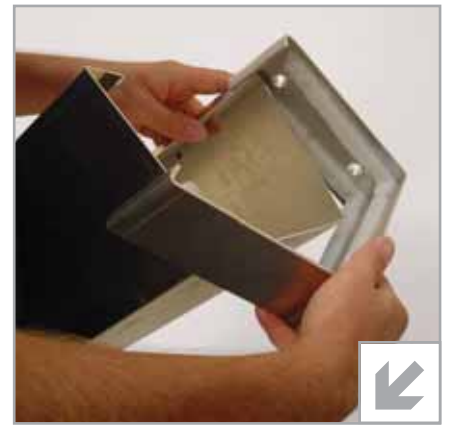
7. Anchor each joint union to the fascia board using 32mm x No10 screws, SC202. All angles should also be anchored in the same way.



3. Hook rear spacer bars over rear upstand of gutter in line with holes and stiffener straps.



4. Check that factory fitted rubber compression spacers are fitted then apply two 8mm thick parallel beads of sealant, SC101 to both sides of the joint union.



5. Fit the joint union to the end of the gutter by placing it onto the rear gutter edge, then swinging forward to the front edge whilst slightly bending the front of the gutter inwards, finally snapping over the front edge.



8. Prepare next gutter length, as described in 2, 3, 4, & 5. Snap gutter length into the anchored union, ensure to leave a 4-5mm expansion gap, then fix gutter length to fascia board as described in 6.



9. Add additional sealant if required. Point excess sealant well into the expansion gap. Dress sealant, level with faces of gutter.



10. Fit patch outlets by cutting the appropriate size hole to the base of the gutter, either in situ or prior to fixing gutter. Place patch outlet to the external face of the gutter, mark and drill four 6mm bolt holes. Apply sealant, SC101 to joint faces and secure with four M6 aluminium bolts, nuts and washers, codes SC502, SC511 & SC521.

Fixing gutter to rafters

This gutter system has not been designed for rafter fixings as the stiffener/spacer bracket assembly and fixing hole centres will not align with most rafter spacings.

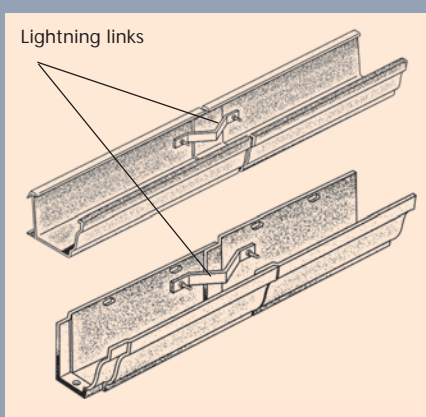
Our recommendation for fixing to exposed rafters eaves is to provide a fascia board fixed to the rafter ends, so at least two thirds of the upper gutter depth is backing onto the fascia board.

If heavy snow loading is anticipated, additional support fixings may be required.

Lightning links

Lightning Conductor Links (SC401) should be fitted where gutters are bonded to the lightning protection system. This is to provide electrical continuity across the gutter joints that are effectively insulated from one another by the gutter joint sealant.

1. Prior to installing the gutter, pre-drill 7mm holes through the rear of the gutter, 20mm from the top and 65mm from the end of the gutter.
2. Scrape off the paint to expose bare metal around the hole to both faces. This area should be equal to the diameter of the washer supplied.
3. Oxide inhibitor, SC402 must be applied to all contact faces.
4. Insert the bolt from the back of the gutter, apply a nut and washer from the inside and tighten.
5. Once the gutter is installed and the joints sealed, fit link strap to projecting threaded bolts, bending link strap as required to bridge over joint union.
6. Fit the nuts and washers and securely tighten.



Site painting

Do not paint mill finish gutters after installation as paint will not bond to surfaces contaminated with silicone sealant. It is recommended that all components are individually painted prior to installation to ensure all surfaces are painted. Prior to application of paint, it is vitally important to ensure all surfaces are degreased with solvent cleaner, SC108, using a clean cloth which itself should be regularly replaced to prevent the spread of diluted grease. Prime surfaces with an "aluminium etch primer" or zinc phosphate, followed by two coats of good quality metal gloss paint. Two part synthetic or polyurethane paints are recommended for durability. Ensure the paint is fully dry prior to contact with joint sealant. Partially dry paint may react with sealant, affecting reliability of gutter joint. If over painting new or aged polyester powder coated surfaces, rub down surfaces with a light abrasive scotch wool (not steel wool) to achieve a good key. Clean surfaces using a clean cloth and solvent cleaner, SC108 and apply top coat directly onto the prepared surface. No undercoats or primers are required.

Handling & storage

Gutters and pipes, particularly with polyester powder coated finishes, should be handled with care and should preferably be stored under cover on racks to prevent scratching

or denting. All gutter and pipe lengths are supplied in protective polythene sleeving and components packed in cardboard boxes. If polyester powder coated products are stored outside, cover with a tarpaulin to guard against water ingress into the protective polythene tubing. If water becomes trapped within the polythene wrapping and left exposed to warm sunlight, it may leave permanent water stains on the paint finish. Mill finish goods to be installed in their natural state should also be stored undercover, to prevent uneven oxidization to visible surfaces. Once installed the surfaces will mature uniformly. Sealants should not be stored in temperatures below 0°C and kept away from any direct heat source. Solvent cleaners must be stored away from any direct heat or combustible source, preferably in an appropriate fire resistant storage cabinet.

Environmental

Ensure all packaging is disposed of responsibly in accordance with current waste disposal regulations. Aluminium is an infinitely recyclable material and therefore all off cuts should be disposed of at metal recycling depots.

Safety

The relevant safety regulations are outlined in the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and should be followed.

Refer to CDM regulations (Code of Practice and Designing for Health and Safety in Construction 1995).

Handling mill finished or polyester powder coated aluminium products does not pose any known health hazard, however it is recommended to wear protective gloves when handling mill finish aluminium.

Hazard instructions relating to sealant, solvent cleaner and touch up paint are printed on their respective containers and COSHH sheets are supplied with each consignment of goods and are available on request.



Further information

For technical enquiries please call **01234 344108**

For general enquiries please call **01234 359438**

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