

ABT Foundation Solutions Offers Winter Gutter Guidance to Help Protect Foundations

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ABT Foundation Solutions is highlighting the role of properly maintained gutter systems in protecting foundations during winter, when snow accumulation, ice buildup, and repeated freeze-thaw cycles can create additional moisture challenges for buildings. The company is encouraging property owners to pay attention to roof drainage before winter conditions allow minor gutter problems to contribute to larger structural concerns.

Winter precipitation does not always leave a property when the snow stops falling. As temperatures fluctuate, melting snow and ice can send significant amounts of water toward the ground surrounding a building. When gutters are clogged with leaves, roofing debris, or ice, that water may spill over the edges and collect near the foundation rather than being directed safely away from the structure.

The resulting moisture can affect the soil around foundation walls and find its way into existing cracks or other vulnerable areas. When temperatures drop again, trapped water freezes and expands, potentially widening

cracks and placing additional stress on the surrounding concrete. Repeated cycles of freezing and thawing can make existing foundation problems more difficult to manage.

"Water that collects near a foundation during winter can become a bigger concern when temperatures repeatedly rise and fall," said Dan Dillenberg, co-owner of ABT Foundation Solutions. "Keeping gutters and downspouts functioning properly helps control where that water goes and reduces unnecessary moisture around the foundation."

Downspout placement is another consideration in winter drainage. Even when gutters collect water effectively, downspouts that release it directly beside the building can concentrate moisture in the same area that property owners are trying to protect. Properly functioning systems carry roof runoff to a discharge point far enough away to limit soil saturation near foundation walls. This becomes particularly important during rapid snowmelt or when rainfall occurs on top of existing snow.

ABT Foundation Solutions installs only the best seamless gutter systems, including custom-fitted options designed to follow a property's roofline. Seamless gutters reduce the number of joints where leaks can develop, while downspouts provide a controlled path for collected water. The company also installs gutter guards featuring microfiltration technology designed to block small debris while allowing water to pass through.

Installation involves fitting the guards to the roof's pitch while taking precautions to avoid lifting or damaging existing shingles. Maintaining the roof covering during installation is an important consideration because gutter performance and roof drainage work together to manage precipitation around a building.

Gutter maintenance also affects more than the foundation itself. Clogged or undersized systems can contribute to ice buildup along roof edges. Ice dams develop when melting snow refreezes near the eaves, creating a barrier that can cause additional meltwater to collect beneath roofing materials. Keeping drainage channels clear helps reduce conditions that contribute to these problems, although proper attic insulation and ventilation also play important roles in preventing ice dams.

During property inspections, ABT Foundation Solutions evaluates drainage as part of the broader conditions affecting a building's foundation. This includes examining roof runoff, grading, downspout placement, and existing waterproofing measures. The company reports that many foundation repair projects involve properties that have experienced prolonged moisture exposure around the building perimeter, making water management an important consideration in addressing structural concerns.

"Foundation protection involves looking at how water moves across the entire property, not just what happens below ground," said Mickey Stachurski, co-owner of ABT Foundation Solutions. "Roof drainage, grading, and

waterproofing all contribute to the conditions surrounding a foundation, particularly during Wisconsin's changing winter weather."

Founded in 2002, ABT Foundation Solutions, Inc. provides foundation repair, basement waterproofing, crawl space repair and encapsulation, concrete leveling through polyjacking, egress window installation, and gutter services for residential and commercial properties throughout Northeast Wisconsin. The company completes approximately 800 to 1,200 projects annually across its service categories. Its installation teams participate in weekly training sessions and maintain certifications related to foundation repair and basement waterproofing. The company also holds an A+ rating with the Better Business Bureau.

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ABT Foundation Solutions

Our foundation repair and basement waterproofing company in Appleton can waterproof basements, repair basement walls and basement wall cracks, repair foundations which are sinking and settling, and waterproof crawl spaces.

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