

Installation

Correct installation is vital to ensure the effectiveness and longevity of your system. Poor installation can give rise to avoidable problems and poor performance. You can find out more about correct installation on our website, but our main advice would be to seek the help of an experienced installer.

Having said that there are areas a customer can look out for;

Preparation

As with any drainage system cast iron gutters and pipes must be fixed to sound material. Bear in mind the system may also have to support additional weight that can result from a build-up of ice and snow during the winter months. Do not attach any part of a rainwater system to loose masonry, old or loose fascias etc.




Cast iron products should be handled with care after primer and finishing coats of paint have been applied. Things to look out for are chips or scratches on the surface and it is always worth checking the edges of gutters as these can be particularly susceptible to scuffing. If cast iron is exposed to water and oxygen it will rust. This visual inspection is easy to do and any problem areas easy to remedy. Simply apply touch up paint to the exposed area as soon as possible and proceed with installation.



Examples
of chips and scuffs after installation painting that have not been re-touched,
resulting in rusting of damaged area

Reworking

When installing a system it is more than likely that pipes and gutters may need cutting. Guidance for installers is available on our website but there are a few points worth noting;

-  Cutting the pipe or gutter will expose bare iron, this needs to be retouched with paint as soon as possible.
-  The process of cutting will produce cutting dust (iron filings) and if not removed promptly and the surface dried, these will then rust on the surface of the paint.
-  If rust has formed on exposed, uncoated areas of the casting the area affected will need to be sanded down, cleaned and dried before the surface is retouched with paint. It is important to ensure the area is completely recoated to prevent re-occurrence of the issue in the same location.

Fitting

Cast iron rainwater systems are designed to be used with a range of different brackets and fixings. These designs have been tried and tested for more than a century. It is important that the correct bracket and fixings are used in relation to the installation needs of your property. Always seek advice from an experienced installer if you are unsure which to choose.



Example
showing rusted screw and bolt in the socket resulting from failure to use touch up paint on the nut and bolt