The Pro’s and Cons of different metal options:

STEEL

Cost – steel is the most affordable, cost effective of the metal rainwater ranges and it makes for a smart, stylish and contemporary rainwater system.

Strength & Durability - steel is stronger than PVCu and creates a robust system when installed correctly. A galvanized steel gutter will resist thermal expansion and contraction making it even more stable – great for where the weather variations really test the gutters. It is lighter than cast iron so has the benefit of being easier to work with. Some ranges (such as our Zambelli steel range) have a very deep capacity – 20% deeper than most standard gutters – which is valuable in locations where rainfall can be heavy.

The product carries a manufacturer's guarantee for 15 years although life expectancy should be 20 to 25 years. Over time steel can rust and a certain amount of maintenance is sensible (see below).

Installation - Steel should be installed by a professional or an experienced DIY'er. It fits together very similarly to a PVC system with integral rubber joints.

Style & Finish - Our stocked ranges come in a half round profile and in plain galvanised or black powder coated. Six other colours are available upon request.

Eco-friendly or sustainable? The life time value of steel is high as it lasts such a long time. Steel is also 100% recyclable saving landfill space and the conservation of natural resources.

Guide Price – Prices obviously vary hugely and we, as many, offer discounts on volume but based on standard 125mm, half round, black coated gutter our guide price is £6.88/m.

Who does it suit? In our view, steel is ideal with modern builds.

ALUMINIUM

Cost - More expensive than steel but aluminium is worth it if you’re looking for strength and longevity.

Strength & Durability – aluminium is stronger than steel so a great choice for coping with wet weather or snow. It should never rust as majority of systems are polyester powder coated. It looks smart and substantial but is lighter weight than cast iron so easier to handle. There’s a great variety of options from traditional cast or extruded ranges available in a variety of profiles such as half round, traditional ogee or contemporary box section.

In a normal domestic application an aluminium system should last at least 25 years.

Installation - Installation is straight forward for both cast aluminium and extruded aluminium systems, particularly our SnapIt extruded range which literally ‘snaps’ together with no nuts or bolts – a popular choice for the self build market!
**Style & Finish** - There's great variety of profile in the aluminium ranges. We have now extended our stock range of cast aluminium by adding a traditional style Victorian ogee profile to the half round and moulded ogee. The SnapIT extruded ranges now come in half round, traditional moulded ogee and contemporary joggle box sections offering a great choice of finish.

There is also an exciting range of 26 colour choices available in each material – a finish to suit all sorts of projects.

**Eco-friendly or sustainable?** – The life time value of aluminium is high as it lasts a very long time. 80% of the rainwater systems already in use in the UK have been manufactured from recycled aluminium and all aluminium is infinitely recyclable at the end of its life.

**Guide Price** – Prices obviously vary hugely and discounts are available on volume but based on standard 125mm, half round, powder coated extruded aluminium gutter our guide price is £13.17/m and based on standard 125mm, half round, powder coated cast aluminium gutter our guide price is £23.10/m.

**Who does it suit?** An aluminium system is ideal for those looking for something robust and long lasting. It’s available in a textured heritage finish or a smooth modern finish, looking great on modern as well as traditional dwellings. Cast aluminium is a cost effective alternative to cast iron where a traditional style is desirable.

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**CAST IRON**

**Cost** – Cast iron is the most expensive of the metal ranges, but with good reason.

**Strength & Durability** - cast iron is immensely strong and long lasting. It also looks superb on traditional style houses. It represents the most expensive material for guttering but this quality system should last at least 50 years with the correct maintenance, with many systems lasting 100 years plus!

**Installation** - as this is a heavier system it really needs to be installed by two people and from scaffolding. A professional or a very competent DIYer with assistance would be able to install this system.

**Style & Finish** – The cast iron range comes half round or a Victorian moulded ogee profile and in a primed transit coat for painting on site or pre painted black.

**Eco-friendly or sustainable?** – Cast iron lasts a very long time and so in that respect as a choice it has great sustainability and leads to less use of natural resources. It also oxidises very slowly over time giving off iron ashes which are carbon based and good for the environment. These promote green growth on plants and increase planktonic life in the oceans, thus combating global warming. Recent studies have shown that adding iron dust to the oceans could have a dramatic positive effect on their health, increasing the oxygen output of our seas and oceans and reducing greenhouse gasses. Cast Iron is also 100% recyclable.

**Guide Price** – based on standard 125mm, half round, pre-painted cast iron gutter our guide price is £23.20/m although discounts are available on high volume.

**Who does it suit?** Cast iron is best on traditional heritage style and a must for Listed Properties.

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**MAINTENANCE** of all metal gutters is recommended as below

- Clean out hoppers, outlets, angles & gutter lengths every six months ensuring this are always free from dirt and debris
- Ensure joints and fixing points within your structure are sealed and secure.
- Always place ladders against structures and not the rainwater system.
- Clean external visible surface finishes to maintain aesthetic appearance
- Regular inspection for signs of deterioration and any areas of corrosion damage should be repaired in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions.