

## Aluminum, Steel, or Copper? Choosing the Right Material for Your Drip Edge Extension

**Introduction** When you decide to install a [drip edge extension](#), you aren't just choosing a service; you are choosing a material. This strip of metal will be exposed to sun, rain, snow, and wind for decades. It needs to be durable, but it also needs to match the aesthetic of your home. At B.A. Harris Seamless Gutter, we offer a range of materials to suit every budget and style.

**1. Aluminum: The All-Rounder** Aluminum is the most popular choice for drip edge extensions in Massachusetts, and for good reason.

- **Pros:** It is lightweight, easy to shape (making custom fitting easier), and most importantly, it does not rust. Aluminum comes in a variety of baked-on enamel colors (white, brown, black, etc.) that can perfectly match your fascia or gutters.
- **Cons:** It is softer than steel. If a large tree branch falls on your eaves, aluminum is more likely to dent.
- **Best For:** Standard residential homes looking for a clean look and long-term corrosion resistance.

**2. Galvanized Steel: The Heavy Lifter** Galvanized steel is coated with a layer of zinc to prevent rust.

- **Pros:** It is incredibly strong. It holds its shape rigidly, creating a very straight, crisp line along the roof edge. It is less likely to warp or bend under the weight of heavy ice or ladder pressure.
- **Cons:** Eventually, if the zinc coating is scratched or wears off, steel can rust. It is also harder to cut and bend, requiring more labor during installation.
- **Best For:** Commercial buildings or homes in areas with severe weather conditions where structural strength is paramount.

**3. Copper: The Premium Choice** For historic homes in Walpole or high-end custom builds, copper is the gold standard.

- **Pros:** Copper never rusts; it patinas. Over time, it turns from a bright penny color to a distinguished bronze and eventually a verdigris green. It is extremely durable and adds significant curb appeal and value to the home. It acts as a natural fungicide/algaecide, often keeping the area below it cleaner.
- **Cons:** It is the most expensive option. It is also incompatible with aluminum gutters (due to galvanic corrosion), so it must be paired with copper gutters or separated by a barrier.
- **Best For:** Historic restorations, luxury homes, or homeowners who want a "forever" solution that looks beautiful.

**4. Vinyl/Fiberglass: The Budget Option**

- **Pros:** Cheap and completely corrosion-free.

- **Cons:** We generally advise against these in New England. The extreme cold causes vinyl to become brittle and crack. It also expands and contracts significantly with temperature changes, which can loosen nails over time.

**Matching the Extension to the Gutter** A critical rule in gutter installation is avoiding "galvanic corrosion." This happens when two dissimilar metals touch (like copper and aluminum) in the presence of water. One metal will eat the other. At B.A. Harris, we ensure compatibility. If you have aluminum gutters, we use aluminum or coated steel drip edges. If you have copper gutters, we use copper extensions.

**Conclusion** The material you choose determines the longevity and look of your roofline. Whether you need the cost-effectiveness of aluminum or the elegance of copper, B.A. Harris Seamless Gutter has the expertise to fabricate and install the perfect drip edge extension for your home. We custom-bend our metals to ensure a tight, functional fit that lasts a lifetime.

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