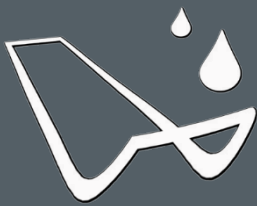




**READY, SET, GO!**  
**RAIN  
GUTTERS**

Rain gutters are attached to your home and run along the roof line. They collect the rain water that falls on the roof, and lead it into downspouts, which carry it away from the house or to rainwater collection barrels.



Rain gutters are traps for burning embers, which can ignite your home long before the actual wildfire arrives.



Redwood City  
Fire Department

[www.redwoodcity.org](http://www.redwoodcity.org)

Rain gutters help protect the foundation from wearing down and the roof and siding from water leaks that can cause the buildup of mold and mildew. They also help keep moisture out of the crawl space under the house.

However, rain gutters also collect plant debris, such as pine needles and leaves, putting your home at risk from burning embers. If debris in the gutters catches fire, the house and everything inside is in danger.

Cleaning rain gutters often removes debris buildup, keeps rainwater flowing into the downspout and away from the house, improving the safety of your home. Plastic gutters are easy to install, but can melt and ignite your home. Metal gutters however, won't burn or crack, making them the best choice in fire hazard areas.

You can also increase your home's safety by putting in gutter flashing, which will protect the roof's edge and help stop fire from spreading to the attic. Gutter flashing is a thin layer of waterproof material that's bent at a right angle and attached under the roof covering, inside the gutter.

Rain gutter covers or guards can be added to block debris and reduce the number of times you need to clean them, but they must be kept up regularly to lower the wildfire risk.

For more information, please visit the Redwood City website or call **(650) 780-7400** to speak with a Fire Prevention Officer