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## **ROOF & GUTTER DE-ICING SYSTEMS**

Roof and gutter de-icing systems utilizing electrical self-regulating heater cables are designed to create a path for melt water to exit the roof surfaces, gutters, and downspouts. They are not designed to melt all the snow and ice from the roof, gutters, and downspouts. In a properly operating system there might be snow and ice visible on the roof edges and in the gutters. If water is visibly exiting the downspouts in freezing conditions, then the system is most likely working as designed.

A properly installed gutter and downspout system using approved components should maintain an open path for melt water and prevent the gutters and downspouts from becoming completely clogged with ice.

A properly installed roof de-icing system is designed to prevent "ice damming" at the upper edge of the overhanging eave and therefore prevent seepage of water into the structure below.

Nelson CLT5-JT or SLT-1 (120v) and Nelson CLT25-JT or SLT-2 (208-277v), which will produce 9-11 watts per foot in ice water, are the proper cables for this application. This is sufficient to melt the snow and ice around the cable and provide a path for melt water to exit the roof surfaces, gutters, and downspouts.

Some engineers and contractors take the approach that more heat is better and insist on a cable with higher output for this application. This is not necessary and the only thing you get with a higher wattage cable is higher energy costs.

Tracer Tech offers complimentary advice, design, and specification for roof and gutter de-icing systems.

Please contact us.