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(54) **Waste water handling apparatus**

(57) The invention relates to a gutter element 1 for use in a guttering system, comprising a plurality of means 2 adapted to restrict length variation of the element owing to thermal effects, the means 2 being spaced along at least a majority of the full length of the gutter element.

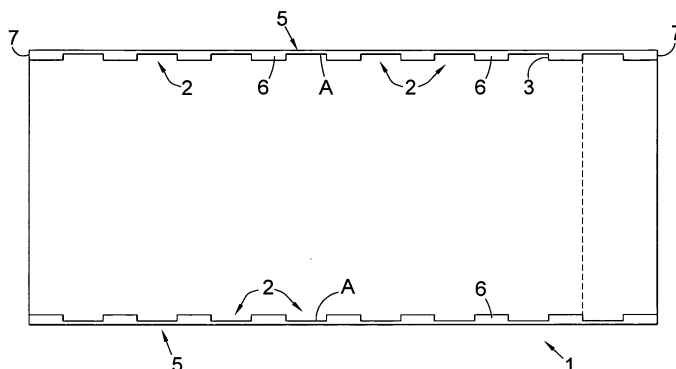
It will be understood that the means 2 may comprise a notch 3, suitably of open channel shape as shown, slot, slit or the equivalent opening in a gutter element 1 for receiving support element such as a bracket or gutter union.

The gutter element is of 'square' section in end elevation and has inwardly directed flanges 4 at facing upper

(in use) edges 5 which are each notched along their whole length by having notches 3 formed therein of channel shape, there being pairs of opposite notches on, in the embodiment, 29mm centres, each slot being 13 mm long, as is each land 6 between notches 3, and between an end notch 3 and an end 7 of the gutter element 1.

If the gutter element 1 is cut to length on site, e.g. along a line 'X', it is cut to leave a full land length. A gutter union with a retention web is inserted as by snap engagement at a desired position along the gutter element 1 in an appropriate pair of opposed notches 3, e.g. A-A.

There may be a single longitudinally axial central notch.



**Fig. 1**



## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 07 25 2818

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
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X	WO 00/20704 A (MARLEY TILE AG [CH]; MARLEY EXTRUSIONS [GB]; QUINNELL GEOFFREY [GB]) 13 April 2000 (2000-04-13) * page 10, last paragraph; figure 4 * -----	1-9,15, 18-40	
X	GB 2 372 762 A (MARLEY EXTRUSIONS [GB]) 4 September 2002 (2002-09-04) * page 3, last paragraph; figures 2a-2c,4a,4b * * page 7, line 24 - line 27 * -----	1-9,18, 28-40	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)  E04D
X	FR 2 415 700 A (MARLEY TILE AG [CH]) 24 August 1979 (1979-08-24) * page 3, line 2 - line 12; figures 1,2 * -----	1-9,18, 28-40	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search <b>The Hague</b>		Date of completion of the search <b>14 May 2009</b>	Examiner <b>Demeester, Jan</b>
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons ..... &amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.  
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
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