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Inspect Aluminum Cladding Expansion Joints & Movement Gaps

Inspect aluminum cladding expansion joints and movement allowances. Interactive checklist; commentable; export as PDF/Excel for compliant gaps, durable seals.

Project:
Date:
Filled by:

Design and Documentation Verification

1	Verify joint locations and widths against approved shop drawings using a steel rule and tape; acceptance: positions match gridlines and measured width \geq design width; evidence: dated photos with measurements annotated and drawing revision stamps.
2	Review thermal movement calculations for aluminum (coefficient per submittal) and design temperature range; acceptance: joint movement allowance \geq calculated ΔL ; evidence: signed calculation sheet and design summary per approved project specifications and authority requirements.
3	Confirm interface details (membranes, flashings, fire barriers) show freedom for movement at joints; acceptance: documented compatibility and clearance on drawings; evidence: marked details and submittal approvals.
4	Verify specified sealant movement capability and backer rod type vs. joint design; acceptance: sealant stated movement \pm design requirement; evidence: product data sheets and approvals on file.

Materials and Components

5	Inspect backer rods: closed-cell polyethylene, diameter 25–50% larger than joint width; method: calipers; acceptance: snug fit without stretching; evidence: packaging photos showing size and batch.
6	Check sealant batches for brand, color, and expiry; method: label review; acceptance: within shelf life and correct color; evidence: lot numbers photographed and recorded.
7	Examine joint cover plates/profiles (if used) for thickness and edge quality; method: micrometer and visual; acceptance: thickness per drawing, edges deburred, protective film intact; evidence: measurements and close-ups.
8	Confirm isolation pads/films and low-friction materials (e.g., PTFE/HDPE) are delivered for sliding interfaces; acceptance: materials per submittal; evidence: delivery dockets and material labels.

Subframe and Fixings	
9	Identify fixed vs. sliding points on subframe per drawings; method: tagging and feeler gauge; acceptance: one fixed point per panel, remaining slots free; evidence: tagged photos and layout sketch.
10	Measure slot lengths/orientation in brackets/rails with calipers; acceptance: slot length \geq required movement travel + 10% contingency, oriented parallel to movement; evidence: recorded readings with location references.
11	Torque mechanical fasteners with a calibrated wrench; acceptance: within manufacturer's range; evidence: torque log including wrench serial, date, and installer signature.
12	Check isolation from dissimilar metals at interfaces; method: visual and continuity check; acceptance: continuous isolator present, no bare aluminum contacting steel; evidence: close-up photos.

Joint Geometry and Backing	
13	Measure joint gap along its full length using feeler gauges; acceptance: variation $\leq \pm 2$ mm from target and minimum width \geq design; evidence: log with ambient temperature at time of measurement.
14	Install backer rod to depth achieving sealant aspect ratio $\sim 2:1$; method: depth gauge; acceptance: depth within ± 2 mm of target; evidence: photos showing gauge and joint ID.
15	Clean joint faces; method: lint-free cloth and approved solvent; acceptance: no residue (white-cloth test clean) and surfaces dry; evidence: before/after photos.
16	Apply primer where required; method: brush/dauber per data sheet; acceptance: continuous coverage, flash-off time observed; evidence: primer log with batch, time, and applicator.
17	Confirm movement path behind panels is unobstructed; method: borescope or remove sample panel; acceptance: no rigid foam, fasteners, or mortar bridging; evidence: borescope images or inspection photos.

Sealant, Covers, and Accessories	
18	Gun and tool sealant to uniform concave profile; method: nozzle control and tooling spatula; acceptance: adhesion on two sides only, no three-sided bond; evidence: close-ups within 30 minutes of tooling.
19	Verify sealant tack-free and cure per manufacturer; method: thumbprint/time checks; acceptance: passes at stated intervals; evidence: timestamped photos and cure log.
20	Install cover plates with slip allowance; method: slotted holes and low-friction washers; acceptance: plate moves freely under hand push without binding; evidence: short video or sequence photos.
21	Conduct low-pressure hose test at joints: ~ 3 L/min for 10 min; acceptance: no water behind weatherline; evidence: test report with photos and locations.
22	Record installation temperature and verify seasonal adjustment; method: thermometer reading and ΔL check; acceptance: installed width accounts for expected temperature swing; evidence: signed calculation sheet.

Comments:

Filled by:

Signature:

Introduction	How to use this checklist
<p>Inspect aluminum cladding expansion joints and movement allowances to ensure panels can safely accommodate thermal movement, wind-induced cycling, and building drift without binding or leakage. This checklist focuses on aluminum facade joints only, covering expansion gaps, joint sealants, backer rods, sliding fixings, and cover plates. By validating joint geometry, materials compatibility, and uninterrupted movement paths, you prevent stress transfer, panel distortion, sealant failure, and water ingress. The process aligns field conditions with approved project specifications and authority requirements through measurements, photos, and signoffs. You will verify subframe fixed/sliding points, slot lengths, isolation from dissimilar metals, sealant aspect ratio, and hose testing where appropriate. Acceptance cues include uniform gaps, correct fastener torque, verified sealant cure, and obstruction-free cavities. The outcome is durable weatherproofing, preserved finishes, and reduced maintenance claims. Start in interactive mode to tick items, add comments for deviations, and export PDF/Excel with a QR code for authenticated records.</p>	<p>1. Preparation: Gather approved drawings, calculation sheets, product data, calipers, feeler gauges, torque wrench, depth gauge, borescope, hose, thermometer, PPE, and cleaning/priming materials. 2. Open the checklist on a tablet or phone; switch to interactive mode and select the project, elevation, and joint run you're inspecting. 3. Work item by item, entering measurements and attaching photos or short videos. Use comments to flag deviations or RFIs with locations. 4. Tag responsible parties on comments for quick resolution, and log approvals or concessions per approved project specifications and authority requirements. 5. Run a quick review to confirm all required fields are complete, including torque logs, batch numbers, temperatures, and test outcomes. 6. Export the checklist as PDF/Excel for submittals. The export includes embedded photos, measurement tables, and a QR code for verification. 7. Signoff: Capture digital signatures from the inspector, installer, and supervisor. Distribute and archive the authenticated report for project records.</p>