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Inspect aluminum cladding: alignment & joint width checklist

Inspect aluminum cladding panel installation for alignment and joint width using an interactive checklist that is commentable and can export as PDF/Excel, ensuring consistent joints, true lines, and traceable acceptance.

Project:
Date:
Filled by:

Pre-Inspection Setup	
1	Confirm latest approved shop drawings, specifications, and grid control points are on hand; record document numbers and revisions; attach photos of marked elevations.
2	Calibrate steel rule, digital caliper, feeler gauges, and laser level; record calibration dates/serials; acceptance: valid within current period per approved project specifications.
3	Establish horizontal and vertical datums with total station or rotary laser; mark and label control points; acceptance: inter-datum variance ≤2 mm; capture close-up photos.
4	Verify subframe plumb/level with a 2 m digital level; acceptance: bow or twist ≤2 mm per 2 m or per approved project specifications; record readings.

Alignment Verification	
5	Check panel vertical plumb using laser line over full panel height; acceptance: deviation ≤3 mm over 3 m; attach photo with laser reference.
6	Verify horizontal level using a 2 m spirit level at top and bottom edges; acceptance: ≤2 mm per 2 m; include level bubble photos.
7	Assess face flushness with a 1.5 m straightedge across adjacent panels; acceptance: gap under straightedge ≤2 mm; photo with feeler gauge.
8	Check alignment at external and internal corners using a builder’s square and laser reference; acceptance: corner deviation ≤2 mm; capture corner detail photos.
9	Confirm module lines track grid control points across the elevation; acceptance: cumulative drift ≤5 mm or per approved project specifications; upload annotated elevation photo.
10	Verify alignment continuity over movement joints or transoms; acceptance: step between panels ≤2 mm; photograph transition with scale.

Joint Width Verification	
11	Measure vertical joint width at top, mid, bottom with digital caliper; acceptance: design width (e.g., 10 mm) ±1 mm or per approved project specifications; log three readings.
12	Measure horizontal joint width at left, center, right; acceptance: design width ±1 mm; upload reading photos with caliper display visible.
13	Check joint straightness with a tight string line over 3 m; acceptance: deviation from line ≤2 mm; capture oblique and close-up photos.
14	Verify gaskets, backpans, or baffles do not intrude into open joints; acceptance: visible intrusion 0 mm; provide macro photos.
15	Confirm spacers or setting blocks are installed at specified intervals; acceptance: type and spacing per approved project specifications; record batch/lot numbers.
16	Check joint continuity around penetrations, outlets, and terminations; acceptance: width maintained ±1 mm; upload annotated close-ups.

Fixings and Supports Related to Alignment	
17	Verify bracket shim stacks with feeler gauges; acceptance: cumulative shim ≤5 mm unless engineered; record locations on elevation mark-up.
18	Check panel fixing torque with a calibrated torque wrench; acceptance: within manufacturer data per approved project specifications (e.g., 6–8 N·m); log readings.
19	Confirm slotted holes permit thermal movement without forcing alignment; acceptance: minimum 3 mm free movement; photo before closure.
20	Ensure thermal breaks/isolators are seated flush and not proud; acceptance: no interference with panel plane or joint width; capture detail photos.

Documentation and Acceptance	
21	Capture wide-angle elevation photos showing laser/string lines and grid markers; acceptance: images labeled with grid references and date/time.
22	Tag nonconformities with QR labels on affected panels; raise NCRs; acceptance: corrective action assigned and closed within 24 h; attach before/after photos.
23	Obtain digital signatures from installer, QC inspector, and supervisor; acceptance: names, roles, and dates captured in app.
24	Upload readings, photos, and marked drawings; acceptance: export consolidated report as PDF/Excel with QR hash for verification.

Comments:

Filled by:

Signature:

Introduction	How to use this checklist
Inspect aluminum cladding panel installation for alignment and joint width is the critical quality gate for a clean, durable façade. This checklist helps you confirm panel alignment, module line continuity, and uniform joint gaps while documenting evidence. You will validate plumb and level against control datums, check joint gap tolerances, and verify that shims, brackets, and fixings do not force panels off line. By focusing on panel alignment and joint uniformity only, it avoids scope creep into unrelated weatherproofing or structural testing. Thorough inspections catch creeping drift across elevations, inconsistent reveals, and joint pinch points that can telegraph through the façade or compromise drainage. Following these steps reduces rework, protects warranties, and ensures the finished appearance matches approved shop drawings and mock-ups. Use this interactive tool to tick off tasks in sequence, add field comments, attach photos and readings, and export your sign-off as PDF/Excel with a QR for authentication.	1. Preparation: Confirm access equipment, weather conditions, and lighting. Gather laser level, digital caliper, straightedge, string line, torque wrench, PPE, drawings, and calibration certificates. 2. Open the checklist and switch to interactive mode. Select the elevation or grid bay you will inspect to auto-stamp location data. 3. Tick each step as you proceed. Add comments, attach photos of tools and readings, and enter measurements directly into the specified fields. 4. Flag any nonconformity with a QR tag on the panel, assign corrective actions, and set due dates for reinspection. 5. Generate a draft report and review completeness. Export as PDF/Excel for stakeholders, including photo logs, readings, and mark-ups. 6. Sign-Off: Collect digital signatures, lock the record, and archive with QR authentication to prevent tampering.