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Understanding ALUCOBOND® PLUS Wall System Options

A High-Level Guide to Dry Reveal, Wet Seal,
ALUCOBOND® EasyFix™, and
ALUCOBOND® FaceFastened Systems

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ALUCOBOND® PLUS
GIVING SHAPE TO GREAT IDEAS

ALUCOBOND® EasyFix™

Dry Reveal

Wet Seal

ALUCOBOND® FaceFastened

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Understanding ALUCOBOND® PLUS Wall System Options

ALUCOBOND PLUS 4mm is a fire-retardant aluminum composite material (ACM) designed for use in ventilated rainscreen wall assemblies. While the ACM panel remains the same across all applications, the methods used to fabricate and install the panels has an impact on the façade’s appearance, installation process, and potentially the cost.

Each wall panel system is designed to meet different design priorities and project requirements. This guide provides a high-level overview of the four primary ALUCOBOND PLUS wall systems and highlights the characteristics, advantages, and considerations of each.

Understanding Wall Systems

A wall system refers to the method by which ALUCOBOND® PLUS sheets are fabricated and attached to the building’s substructure. The selected system influences:

- Whether fasteners are concealed or expressed as part of the design
- How panel joints (reveals) are detailed
- The complexity and possibilities of fabrication
- Installation sequence and schedule
- Relative project cost

Feature	Dry Reveal	FaceFastened	EasyFix	Wet Seal
Concealed Fasteners	✓	x	✓	✓
Open Joints	✓	✓	✓	x
Fabrication Speed	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Good
Relative Cost*	\$\$\$	\$	\$\$	\$\$\$
Premium Appearance	Excellent	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good
System Type	PERS or D/BV	D/BV	D/BV	Barrier

- PERS = Pressure Equalized Rainscreen System. Tested per AAMA 508.
- D/BV = Drained & Back Ventilated Rainscreen System. Tested per AAMA 509.
- Barrier = Tested per AAMA 501.
- *- Prices may vary for your specific project.



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Dry Reveal

The Dry Reveal system is considered the premium ALUCOBOND® PLUS attachment method. Panels are fabricated using a route-and-return process that folds all four panel edges to create a rigid tray. Concealed attachment clips secure the panels to the supporting framework, leaving no exposed fasteners on the face of the wall.

The joints between panels remain open, creating crisp, uniform shadow lines without the use of sealant. A reveal strip can be inserted to keep the color consistent in the joint in between the panels. This approach produces the clean, monolithic appearance commonly associated with high end architectural façades while allowing the rainscreen cavity to drain and ventilate naturally.

Advantages

- Premium architectural appearance
- Concealed fastening
- No exposed sealant
- Reveal joints created with strips of ALUCOBOND
- Excellent design flexibility for custom panel layouts and complex geometries
- Supports pressure-equalized and drained rainscreen assemblies
- Potential to use large air cavities for project specific requirements

Considerations

- Highest fabrication complexity
- Potentially longer fabrication and installation time
- Higher installed cost than other systems
- 3A Composites USA does not manufacture and does not provide the engineered/ tested attachment hardware for this wall system

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Wet Seal

The Wet Seal system also utilizes route-and-return fabricated panels with concealed attachments. Unlike Dry Reveal, the joints between adjacent panels are filled with backer rod and sealant to create a continuous sealed joint.

While the industry has increasingly shifted towards the Dry Reveal system, the Wet Seal method still offers distinct advantages specifically for upward-facing panels, canopies and other specialized applications. While the sealant contributes to weather resistance, it also becomes a component that requires proper installation and periodic maintenance throughout the life of the building.

Advantages

- Concealed fasteners
- Familiar detailing for many design professionals

Considerations

- Sealant is visible
- Sealant requires periodic inspection and maintenance
- Installation includes additional backer rod and sealant work and curing time
- 3A Composites USA does not manufacture and does not provide the engineered/ tested attachment hardware for this wall system

ALUCOBOND® EasyFix

EasyFix was developed to simplify fabrication while maintaining many of the visual benefits of a concealed attachment system. Instead of routing and folding all four panel edges, the system reduces the amount of fabrication required by using simplified panel returns and proprietary attachment components.

The result is an open-joint façade that closely resembles a traditional Dry Reveal system but can be fabricated more efficiently. By reducing labor in the shop, EasyFix provides an attractive balance between architectural aesthetics and project economy.

Understanding ALUCOBOND® PLUS Wall System Options

Advantages

- Simplified fabrication process
- Lower fabrication and labor costs
- Concealed attachment
- Open reveal appearance similar to Dry Reveal
- Excellent value for many commercial projects

Considerations

- Less fabrication flexibility than a traditional route-and-return system
- May not accommodate highly customized façade geometries
- 3A Composites USA does manufacture and provides the tested attachment hardware for this wall system type

ALUCOBOND® FaceFastened

The FaceFastened system is the simplest ALUCOBOND® PLUS installation method. Panels require minimal fabrication and are mechanically fastened directly through the panel face into the supporting substructure using color-matched fasteners.

Due to the attachment points remaining visible, this system emphasizes construction efficiency and economy over a completely seamless appearance. The simplified fabrication process also makes panel replacement and future maintenance straightforward, making FaceFastened an effective solution where speed, budget, and ease of access are primary considerations.

Advantages

- Simplest fabrication
- Lowest installed cost
- Easy panel replacement
- Straightforward maintenance

Understanding ALUCOBOND® PLUS Wall System Options

Considerations

- Exposed fasteners remain visible
- Less monolithic appearance than concealed systems
- Fastener layout should be carefully coordinated for visual consistency
- 3A Composites USA does manufacture and provides the tested attachment hardware for this wall system type

Conclusion

Each ALUCOBOND® PLUS wall system offers a unique combination of aesthetics, fabrication methods, and installation approaches while delivering the proven performance of an ACM rainscreen façade. Selecting the appropriate system depends on the project's design intent, performance requirements, constructability, and budget.

Understanding the differences between Dry Reveal, Wet Seal, ALUCOBOND® EasyFix, and ALUCOBOND® FaceFastened systems allows architects to make informed decisions early in the design process and specify the solution that best supports their project goals.

For assistance selecting the appropriate wall system or for project-specific guidance, contact your local ALUCOBOND® PLUS Sales Representative or the Technical Team. They can provide design recommendations, system details, engineering judgements, color samples and specification assistance to help ensure a successful project.