



**FLEX
CONNECT**

FIELD-FABRICATED ACM +
PLATE PANEL SYSTEM

INSTALLATION GUIDE

ACM + PLATE PANEL SYSTEM

All installations should begin with a thorough inspection of the substrate to ensure the surfaces you will be attaching panels to are acceptable to receive panels.

DESIGN CONSIDERATION

The FLEX-Connect System is not limited to any specific sub wall.

ACCEPTABLE SUBSTRATE OPTIONS

- Dens-board through to structural studs
- Plywood
- Poured concrete
- CMU block
- Direct to your preferred galvanized or aluminum sub-girts
- Any thermally broken attachment system

SURFACE PREPARATION

After inspecting the substrate, correct any uneven areas by installing Carter's **.100" aluminum extruded Shadow-Girt Hat or J profiles** while shimming to a maximum of **.250" over 10'**. Once the surface has been made flat and level, begin by developing plumb and level starting points for both vertical and horizontal installation of the first rows of the FLEX System panels.

PANEL INSTALLATION

Set the Flex-Connect Starter and fasten **16" O/C** to define your base perimeter, then begin installing panels left to right or right to left, depending on preference.

PANEL ORIENTATION *Regardless of installation direction, the FLEX-Connect "Right Side" perimeter extrusion always resides on the trailing edges of the panel, and the "Left Side" resides on the leading edges — exposing multiple fastening-point options on the built-in attachment flange.*

Fasten **16" O/C** and repeat this pattern while working across the wall, installing stiffeners as necessary and splines to conceal fasteners.

AAMA 508 RAINSCREEN COMPLIANCE

When installing the FLEX-Connect System to comply with AAMA 508 rainscreen testing, the following must be incorporated:

- **Weep holes:** incorporate at 16" O/C, sized 5/16" in diameter
- **Perimeter sealant:** apply a ¼" bead of Carter's Perimeter Sealant within the concealed extruded pocket of all perimeter profiles, where the perimeter extrusion meets the finished sheet material

STIFFENING & FASTENING

When stiffening is required, install the FLEX-Connect Stiffener at **16" O/C** using Carter's Structural Stiffener Tape. Unless site-specific engineering is required, follow the **ASTM E330** structural testing instructions, which specify stiffener and fastener locations. All perimeter fastening is made through the perimeter extrusion, also at 16" O/C.

PANEL OPTIONS & PREFABRICATION

The FLEX-Connect System can be installed with either **4MM ACM** or **.125" Solid Plate** panels. Installation can be completed by mounting directly on the wall, or panels can be completely assembled on the ground first before mounting.

When prefabricating complete panels, install the FLEX-Connect Corner Brackets in the panel corners using the FLEX-Connect-specific rivet. This reinforces the panels and ensures tightly cut, mitered perimeter extrusion for a flawless finished appearance of your façade.

SPLINE WIDTHS & PANEL DIMENSIONING

Cut spline widths and size each panel face according to the material used:

PANEL MATERIAL	FULL REVEAL SPLINE	STARTER REVEAL SPLINE	FACE DIMENSION DEDUCTION
4MM ACM	1.375"	1"	.800"
.125" Solid Plate	1.875"	1.25"	.250"

To develop the perfect finished panel dimension, subtract the deduction shown above from the desired finished outside dimensions of the panel face.

PREFERRED TOOLS FOR FLEX FIELD APPLICATIONS

When field-fabricating ACM panels, it is critical that the proper tools are used to cut FLEX extrusions and etalbond ACM. Carter Architectural Panels, Inc. recommends the following cutting products, or similar.

APPLICATION	RECOMMENDED PRODUCT
FLEX Extrusion Blade	Diablo D1080N — 10", 80-tooth blade (or similar)
ACM Blade	Tenryu Alumi-Cut AC20360DN — 8", 60T TCG (or similar)
ACM Router Bit	Amana A45781 — 108° V-Groove bit (or similar)



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