

WHICH JOINT WIDTH IS ADVISABLE?

Why the Correct Joint Width Is Essential for Durable and Attractive Façade Systems

One of the most frequently asked questions in ventilated façade construction is:

“What is the ideal joint width between façade panels?”

Although the answer may seem simple, the correct joint width plays a crucial role in both the appearance and long-term performance of the façade system.

At TWEHA®, we always emphasize that façade joints are not only an aesthetic detail — they are an essential technical component of the complete façade construction.

The Recommended Joint Width

From both a technical and architectural perspective, TWEHA® generally recommends a joint width of 8 mm

This dimension offers the best balance between:

- Architectural appearance
- Moisture management
- Ventilation performance
- Tolerance accommodation
- Long-term façade durability

Why 8 mm Creates the Best Visual Result

From an aesthetic standpoint, an 8 mm joint width helps minimize the visibility of small dimensional variations between façade panels.

Even with high-quality façade materials, slight manufacturing tolerances can occur.

A properly proportioned joint helps create:

- Cleaner façade lines
- More uniform panel spacing
- A visually balanced façade appearance
- A high-end architectural finish

Especially in modern minimalist façade designs, consistent joint dimensions contribute significantly to the overall visual quality of the building.

The Technical Risks of Narrow Joints



While narrow joints may sometimes appear visually attractive, joints that are too small can create serious technical problems over time.

Very narrow joints tend to behave like:

Capillary Channels

Capillary action causes rainwater and surface moisture to be drawn into the joint opening instead of being drained away effectively.

This moisture accumulation may eventually lead to:

- Water penetration behind the façade
- Increased moisture retention
- Reduced ventilation efficiency
- Long-term contamination issues

Moisture Absorption in Porous Materials

The risk becomes even greater when porous façade materials are used, such as:

- Natural stone
- Fiber cement boards
- Cement-based façade panels
- Mineral-based cladding systems

These materials can absorb moisture drawn into the joints through capillary action.

As moisture penetrates the façade panel, this may result in:

- Temporary discoloration
- Uneven moisture staining
- Long-term contamination
- Mold and algae growth
- Moss formation over time

Besides affecting the appearance of the façade, prolonged moisture exposure can also negatively influence the long-term durability of the cladding system.

Proper Joint Design Supports Ventilation

Ventilated façade systems rely heavily on proper airflow behind the façade panels.

Correct joint dimensions help support:

- Natural ventilation within the cavity
- Efficient moisture evacuation
- Pressure equalization behind the cladding
- Long-term façade performance

Insufficient joint width can restrict airflow and reduce the effectiveness of the ventilated façade concept itself.

A Small Detail with a Major Impact

In façade engineering, small details often determine long-term success.

The correct joint width contributes directly to:

- Better façade aesthetics
- Improved moisture management
- Reduced contamination risks
- Enhanced durability
- More reliable long-term performance

Choosing the correct joint width is therefore not only a design decision — it is an essential technical requirement.

TWEHA®: Expertise in Complete Façade Solutions

At TWEHA®, we understand that successful bonded façade systems depend on far more than the adhesive alone.

Long-term façade reliability is achieved through the correct combination of:

- Bonding technology
- Ventilation design
- Joint detailing
- Material compatibility
- Moisture management
- Professional installation

Our technical expertise and years of international façade consultancy experience help architects, engineers, and façade professionals create safe, durable, and visually refined façade systems.

Building Better Façades Through Smart Detailing

A well-designed façade is the result of intelligent engineering and careful attention to detail. The correct joint width may seem like a small element within the overall façade design — but it plays a major role in ensuring both architectural quality and long-term façade durability.

Would you like advice on façade detailing, joint dimensions, or bonded façade systems? Our specialists are ready to support your next project with reliable technical expertise and high-performance bonding solutions.

TWEHA®, 2026