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## INTRODUCTION

### Introduction

Benx RockPanel system is a mechanically fixed panelling façade cladding system and is suitable for installation above damp-proof course level on external sheathed light gauge steel frame and other supporting walls applications. The system is for existing, new dwellings and buildings other than dwellings, for low and high raise buildings.

The system consists of flat panels, mechanically fixed with rivets or screws to Allface supporting rails. The Allface system is fixed to a sheathed LGSF or other supporting wall.

Rockpanel system holds KIWA agreement certificate number:

- 3071(including PVA1,3,3 Provisional letter)

This demonstrates its versatility regarding the application onto variable structure types and use of building types, being commercial or dwellings. We constantly monitor our environmental performance to establish benchmarks for continuous improvement and we regularly review our environmental policy to consider stakeholder views, updates to legislation, and any changes in our environmental impacts.

The product has a reaction to fire classification of:

- A2-s1, d0, in accordance with BS EN 13501

Affording its use where fire classification is a key requirement in the project design criteria, for low- and high-rise buildings.

These Third-party accreditation and classification demonstrate the stringent testing regimes and standards that **Benx RockPanel** system has met, following a testing path for strength and stability, behaviour to fire, weathertightness and durability. All of which ensure a high level of performance is achieved for the use of Supertech Weatherboard for your project specification.



## Key Product Features

- ✓ Fully tested KIWA approved, and CE marked.
- ✓ Fully ventilated system.
- ✓ Choice of RockPanel A2 options within the range. Standard thickness 9mm
- ✓ Resistant to rot, fungus, or insect attacks.
- ✓ High levels of weather resistance.
- ✓ Low maintenance, long performance life.
- ✓ Easy to install using standard tools.
- ✓ Development of panel typical and bespoke arrangements.
- ✓ A2 Classification to BS EN 13501-1:2018
- ✓ Dimensionally stable.



## Colours and finishes

RockPanel A2 are available in a wide range of colours.

Set your creativity free with over 200 colours and designs, or choose your own colour, almost all RAL and NCS colours are available.

Consult our Sales and technical department for a detailed chart of available colours. [technicalservices@bex.co.uk](mailto:technicalservices@bex.co.uk) or **08006124662**

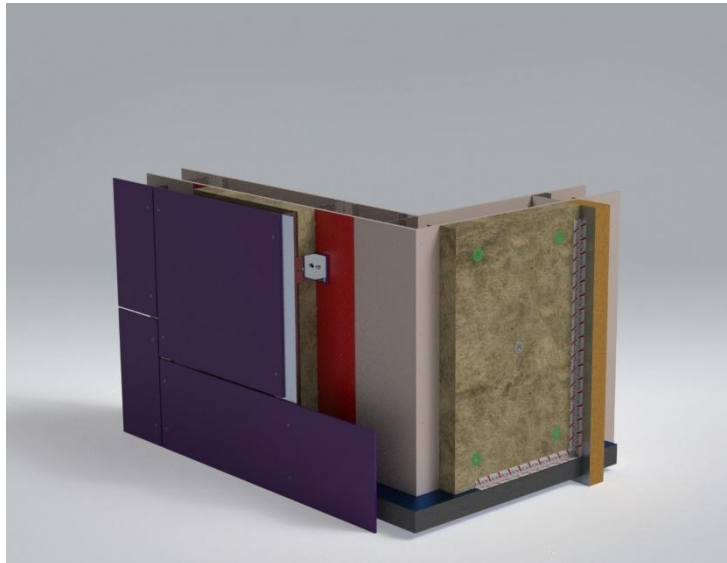


## DESIGN

### System principle: ventilated rainscreen.

**Benx RockPanel** system is installed to a ventilated cladding principle. The objective of the system is to create an air flow at the base of the system whilst creating ventilation at the top of the elevation, horizontal joints, windows cills and heads.

A minimum ventilation air gap shall be 25 mm wide for sealed / closed joints and 50 mm wide for open joints and must be created behind the system, with a minimum 10mm ventilation gap at the top and bottom of the system, windows cills and heads, to create a full ventilation flow. The purpose for this function is to remove moisture from within the cavity. Failure to create a full air flow could lead to possible problems with the overall system.



### Prep. Of the substrate

**Rockpanel** system agreement allow for the system to be fitted on LGSF and STF, the system will be fitted on the sheathing boards, and the breather membranes fixed onto the sheathing board, Benx have an extensive portfolio of cement boards and breather membranes available, that can be supplied by RCM, please contact sales on 0800 6124662.

### Surface Mounted Features.

When **Benx RockPanel** system is subject to additional items being fixed to the building i.e., gutters canopies etc. they should be fixed through the system and into the primary structure or into the main sub structure. Alternatively, they can be fixed into additional rails installed behind the system. Clearance holes should be allowed for when fixing these items through the system. Under no circumstances should the **Benx RockPanel** system be used to carry structural loadings.

### High Wind Loading or Exceptional Impact Requirements.

When installing **Benx RockPanel** system it is important to fully understand the wind loading of the structure that the product is being applied to. The support wall shall have sufficient strength to withstand all wind, dead and imposed loads applied to and from the system, including racking and any temporary loads that could be applied during installation. The strength of the supporting wall shall be verified by a suitably engineer. The project specific design shall ensure that:

- The system attachment to the supporting wall has adequate fixing pull-out capacity for the calculated wind loads,
- Thermal expansion effects of both metal rails and metal structural frame and the cladding to be supported are taken into consideration in the design and detailing.

Alternatively consult KIWA Certificate, **Benx RockPanel** system is a category I and therefore suitable for installation at a groundfloor level. On **Benx RockPanel** system a minimum 10mm gap should also be left under window heads, cills, base, and at the soffit line to ensure complete ventilation.

## Fire

**Benx RockPanel** system is classified as European Classification A2-s1, d0 in accordance with BS EN 13501-1 providing a reaction to fire, Non-Combustible, A2 classification.

This classification relates to mounting applications of aluminium rails, when fixed with rivets or screws (please refer to fixing section for specification of fixings).

Furthermore, consideration and placement of open and closed state cavity fire barriers to close the cavity in the event of fire. In addition, closer/interface around windows is an additional consideration.

Other considerations are the type of insulation and breather membrane. We recommend that the national Building Regulations and standards are consulted, alternatively please consult with the Benx Technical Services Team.

## Ventilation

To make sure that you obtain the best performance from our product and to avoid interstitial condensation we recommend a minimum airflow at the backside of the panels should be 100% free of obstructions with no less than 200 cm<sup>2</sup> of vertical airflow (Min 20mm System depth) behind panels. Minimum air flow at base and top of walls is required to have at least 60% unobstructed ventilation if using ventilated profiles, allowing 5000mm<sup>2</sup> /m minimum. The minimum ventilated cavity depth (= air gap) normally depends on the joint between the panels

- CWCT-standard, parts 1 + 3: Table 3.3 The minimum width of open joints is 6 mm to 10mm maximum. The air gap shall be 25 mm wide for sealed / closed joints and 50 mm wide for open joints.
- NHBC-standard 2020, section 6.9.18 (rainscreen cladding): The minimum width of joints is 10 mm unless specified otherwise, while the air gap must be 38 mm for baffled and 50mm open joints, respectively.

## Breather Membrane

Allows the transfer of moisture vapour, restricts the transfer of water, and may act as an air barrier. Rockpanel is not weathertight and should be backed by a suitable breather membrane acting as a vapour permeable protection. Where required, a wall breather membrane is laid in accordance with the manufacturer recommendations, with minimum laps of 150 mm to ensure water can drain away from the building. The timber battens or metal rail supports are vertically fixed over the breather membrane at maximum 600 mm centres.

Breather membrane typical location is on top of the sheathing board behind the external insulation slabs, however in some cases when NHBC insurance is required the membrane is placed on the external face of the insulation slabs, consult the main designer or contractor about this requirement. The wall breather membrane should be UV durable to BS EN 13859-2, used in conjunction with sheathing on framed applications. RCM membrane range is available.

The membrane must be fixed behind the battens, top hats, or brackets (except NHBC). Installed to RCM manufacturers recommendations.

## Tape and EPDM

To make sure that you obtain the best performance of built-up wall, all jointed layers influence the overall performance in: Water leakage and air permeability and to avoid it the use of tapes is required.

The use of tape is required in three different layers of the build-up:

- To seal the sheathing boards, follow Benx jointing recommendations,
- To seal and protect the breather membrane, follow Benx breather membranes recommendations for rainscreen systems.
- When the breather membrane is fixed behind the external insulation slabs the slabs must be taped on all edges and joints on the external face of the insulation slabs.

Interfaces: Water leakage around windows/openings and sheathing edges needs careful consideration. EPDM, tapes, gaskets must be designed to keep water out of vulnerable areas of the built-up wall.

## Perforated closures

Perforated profiles are available in various widths and bespoke to prevent insects entering through the cavity ventilation gap used at base, top and window openings of cladding and allow ventilation. All ventilation openings around the periphery of a cladding system should be suitably protected with a ventilation protection mesh or a perforated sheet or similar.

A minimum ventilation gap (see ventilation) must be provided between **Benx RockPanel** system's panels and the substrate wall or the external face of insulation slabs, a perforated closure is installed at the base, top, above and below window frame and openings on the top and bottom of the sub-frame.

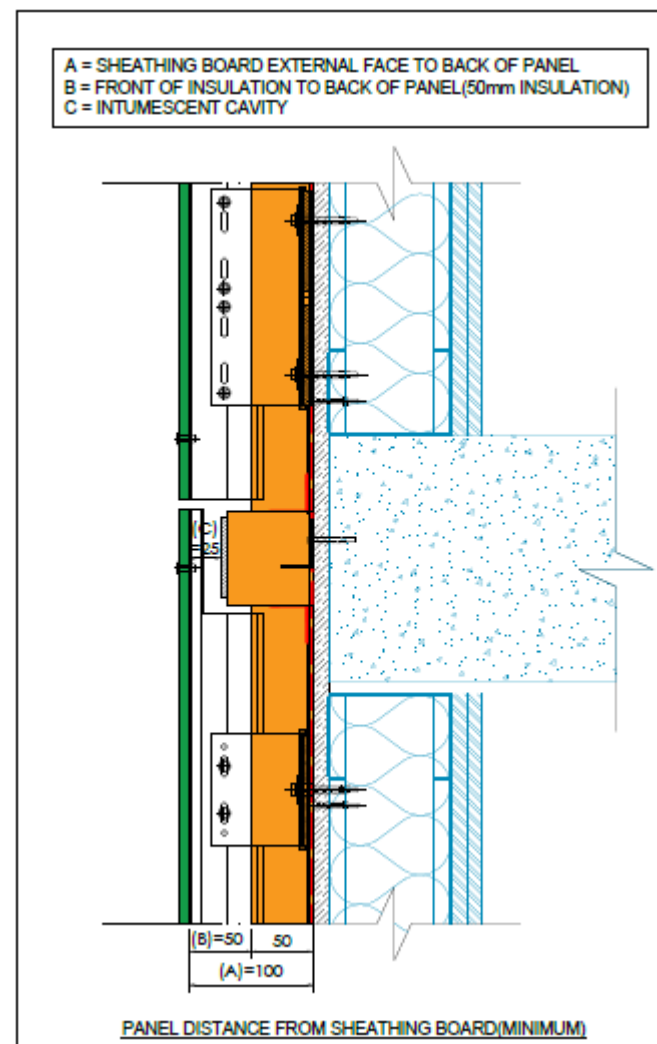
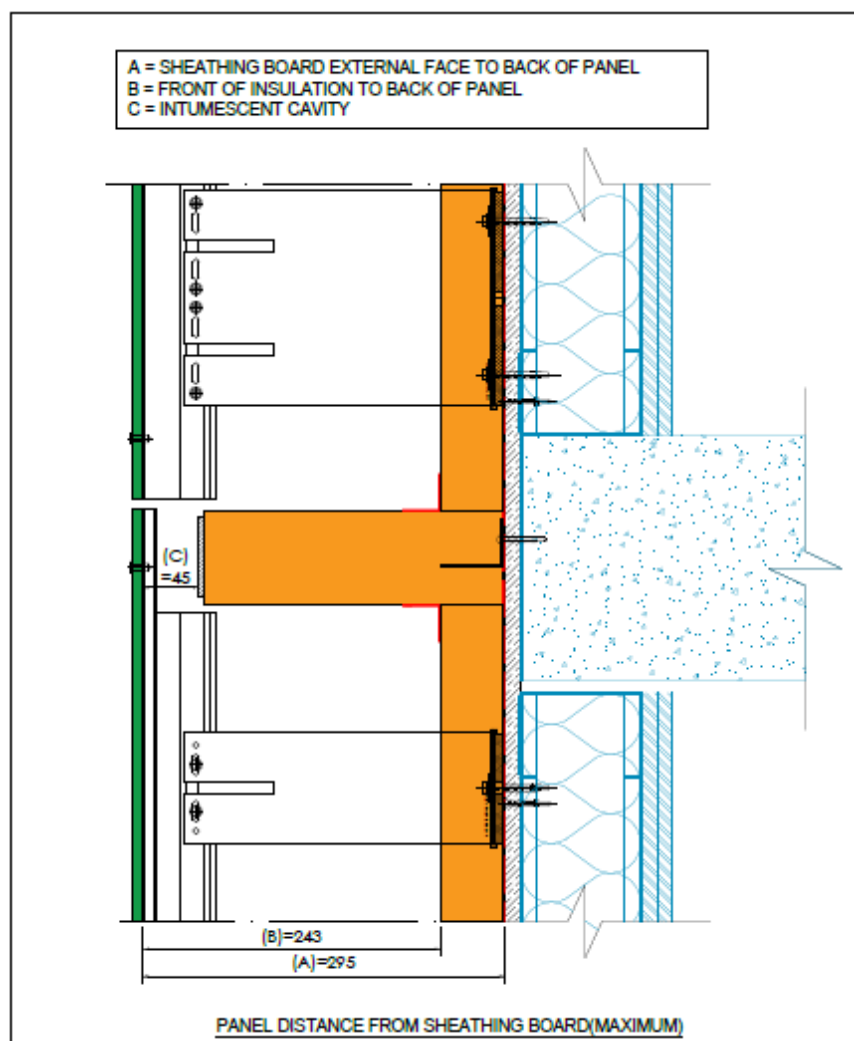
## Allface

General design considerations BAW-19-117-S-A-UK. The system shall be secured to the supporting wall with fixings installed through the spacer support rails/system that form the cavity between the sheathing board of the supporting wall and the carrier board, via the Allface smart fixing system F1.10 in accordance with Allface design recommendations.



If Allface system is to be used, follow the range of L and T aluminium rails that must be used as vertical supports for at a maximum 600 mm centres, **and a max. of 800mm between the helping hands vertically fixed**, ensuring the specified rails are fixed onto the aluminium brackets at a max. centre to suit project specific design loads, creating a minimum cavity between the sheathing board of the supporting wall or the insulation and the back of the panels of 50mm. for open joints.

**Horizontal adjustment of the system works from a minimum void of 100mm to a maximum of 294mm, being the rail horizontal adjustment tolerance in relation with the helping hands 38mm.**



## INSTALLATION

### Installing Benx RockPanel System

**Benx RockPanel** system should be installed in compliance with National Building Regulations. For use on new residential and non-residential high-rise buildings up to and over 18m in height in the UK.

There are several different ways to install **Benx RockPanel** system however, the overall principle is the same. Fix the Panels onto the preservative-treated vertical rails that are spaced with a maximum of 600mm centres across the building elevation. A minimum of a 50mm clear cavity is required behind the panel with open joints option. At the base and head as well as the window and door heads and sills a minimum 10mm continuous opening should be left.

Please note that timber battens are not part of our portfolio, Allface system of brackets and rails typically used for medium and high-rise applications is the system used under our KIWA agreement, and can be fixed back to both masonry and framed buildings, please refer to previous Allface paragraphs. However, where required, Benx offer an alternative range of A1 Non-combustible support frames, these include Galvanised steel top hats cavity depth 25mm this is typically used for low to medium rise applications and can be fixed back to both masonry and framed buildings.

### Panels cutting and fixing methods.

Cutting – **Rockpanel A2** panels can be cut, drilled and screwed. There are a number of different cutting methods to choose from depending on the quantity of material to be cut.

RCM offers a complete fabrication service for **Rockpanel** system with a fully integrated optimisation & fabrication service that allows our customers to order both sheathing and façade boards cut to size. This will minimise waste, provide CNC quality accurate cutting and improve environmental impact., please contact our sales department for details

**0800 612 4662**

Cutting and drilling should be carried out in a dry and well-ventilated area with all cuts being wiped to remove dust with a clean, dry cloth. .

Handsaw: We recommend the use of a hardened point saw which should only be used for small quantities.

Electric jigsaw: When cutting **Rockpanel A2** panels with an electric jigsaw, it is our advice that you turn the board over to ensure a clean finish on the front side of the board.

A hand-held circular saw with blades suitable for cutting prefabricated mineral wool boards products is ideal for cutting large quantities.

For cutting the product in any volume, we recommend the use of an RCM polycrystalline diamond Dart Blade to avoid excessive wear on other blades.

A test cut is always recommended. When cutting or drilling **RockPanel A2** carrier boards wear appropriate PPE and use dust extract.

**Screwing** - When fixing to the support structure it is our recommendation to follow the RockPanel Installation guide.

[Rockpanel Installation Guide.pdf](#)

Rivets and Screws suitable for the installation of the **Rockpanel A2** panels are available from RCM and can be supplied.

Please contact RCM on 0800 612 4662.

## Movement joints

When using Allface helping hand brackets and support rails, horizontal movement joints should be incorporated in line with the Allface design. Movement joints are incorporated by leaving a minimum 10mm gap through the system (including support frame).

## Trims.

**Benx RockPanel** system trims, mechanically fixed at maximum 300mm centres. Follow the typical details.

The cavity zone between the sheathing board and the **RockPanel A2** may require a closure trim at the outer edges as part of the overall project design. The base and head of the cavity should be terminated with a ventilation trim.

## Window and door returns.

Jamb return – Jamb returns are created by using sections of the **RockPanel A2** boards, cut to the depth of the return and finished using beads and trims when required, see the typical detail sets. The return panel is fixed back to metal 'L' angles as per the mentioned details. Head Return must be completed using a ventilation profile to ensure correct ventilation to prevent any deterioration. For any all-other support frames, the head return should be detailed and constructed in the same manner as the jamb return. An EPDM should be installed bridging from the sheathing board the face of the support frame to allow any standing water to escape back into the cavity and exit at the base.

## Sealing around openings and penetrations.

When abutting termination points such as window / door frames, or when the system is penetrated, the abutment junction must be closed of using of using a polyurethane sealant applied and finished on site. Depending on size and depth of joint, a backer rod may be required.

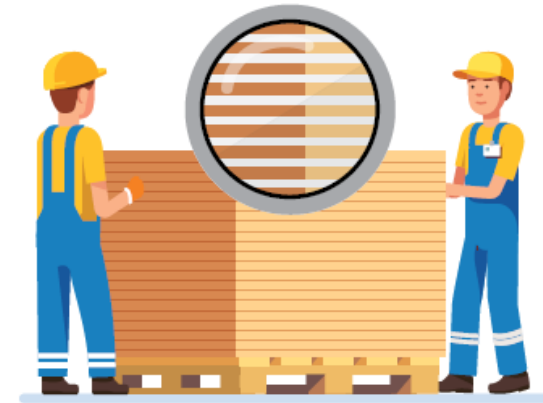
## Termination at soffit line and under window cills.

**Benx RockPanel** system should be terminated a minimum of 10mm below soffit / parapet lines and underside of window cills to allow through flow ventilation. The cavity in these zones should be capped with either insect mesh or purpose made ventilation trim.

## Handling and Storage

**Benx RockPanel** system boards and panels should be stored undercover and off the ground on the pallets on which it is supplied. Additional outer wrap packaging for protection during transportation should be removed to release any trapped moisture and then the pack re-covered with an opaque tarpaulin.

It is important to ensure that the reverse side of the carrier boards and panels is kept dry during storage and installation. The protective interleaving should always be put back in place when re stacking. The boards and panels should be protected from staining from mud or other site wet trades.



Care should be always taken when handling **Benx RockPanel** boards and panels the flat, as it can break. While the board is stored on the flat, it should be fully supported along its full length on purpose designed pallets. Manual handling is best carried out with the boards carried on their sides after being turned on to its side before being lifted off the stack, and then ideally carried by 2 handlers to provide support along the length of the **Benx RockPanel** boards and panels.

**Benx RockPanel** boards and panels should not be slid or dragged across another surface as it would damage the finished surface.

Please refer to the RCM **Benx RockPanel** handling and storage labels on each pallet.



### 11 steps to RockPanel system installation

- Step 1. Fit Breather membrane
- Step 2. Allface subframe to the wall.
- Step 3. Attach perforated closures.
- Step 4. Fix Insulation and Cavity Barriers.
- Step 5. Fix additional profiles.
- Step 6. Fix panels.
- Step 7. Corners, Jambs, Opening heads.
- Step 8. Window details.
- Step 9. Deflection zone details. (Movement joints)
- Step 10. Coastal location information

## Step 1- Fit breather membrane.

Where required a breather membrane should be fixed to the outer face of the sheathing board, unless NHBC insurance standards required that will be fixed on the external side of the insulation slabs, with an overlap between the layers of membrane as required by the manufacturer. Care should be taken to ensure that the membrane is lapped to drain any water away to the outside of the building.

See Benx breather membranes for rainscreen systems document for further advice.

Breather Membranes can be supplied by RCM, please contact sales on 0800 6124662.

## Step 2- Allface subframe to the wall.

Support frame Allface helping hands and rails.

- install F1 brackets over correct isolation pads to reduce the level of thermal bridging through the brackets
- mechanically fix the brackets with JT 3-3 screws with supplementary 16mm washer through the slotted holes back to the supporting framework

- temporary fit a vertical support rail to allow alignment of brackets and tighten screws
- install insulation and fire breaks accordingly
- install vertical rails (T or L profiles) into the brackets using a laser or level, plumb the rails for vertical alignment and secure to the brackets using JT 4-4 screws.

## Step 3- Attach perforated closures.(Ventilation)

The closures should be screwed to both the top and bottom of the Rails. They are designed to allow for air flow through the system whilst preventing access for birds, rodents, and large insects. Perforated closures should also be attached to each door, cill and window head, to prevent animal or insect access whilst maintaining ventilation flow.

## Step 4. Fix Insulation and Cavity Barriers.

It is important to ensure a tight fit between slabs, trimming must be accurate to achieve close butted joints and continuity of insulation. Some brands have face side orientation for the slabs, and another don't, be aware when this occurs.

The slabs should be close butted at all vertical and horizontal joints, and at corners. the horizontal joints of the slabs should be staggered, in accordance with good practice, in some cases arrangement can be the opposite, the vertical joints should be staggered but the most common arrangement is the first.

Mineral wool insulation slab is the most common material used, over and under 18m height, however and for buildings under 18m height and depending on the system, another insulation materials could be considered, ask for advice to Benx technical department,

## Cavity barriers

We need to distinguish between two types of cavity barriers:

- For external fire spread prevention, surrounding the openings, at slab on every floor level, and in a stud wall or partition, always following building regulations approved document B.

- For pressure equalization, cavity barriers should be provided at the junction of the external wall and roof space, and as close as possible to an external corner (generally within 300mm)

Interface with rainscreen insulation must be close butted at all vertical and horizontal joints.

## Fixing

Fixings should have a minimum head diameter of 70mm, a typical fixing pattern has a minimum of three fixings per square meter with one metal fixing at the centre of the slab for fire regulations requirement.

Note that the adequacy of this or any other fixing pattern should be verified for every project, there is available a Benx fixing guide with number of fixings per insulation slab, and available fixing types, all related with wind load and pressure equalization requests.

## Thermal bridging

Fixings and supports penetrating the insulation through to the structure form point thermal bridges. The effect on the thermal performance on the overall façade system can be significant. Whilst the use of thermal isolators can assist in mitigating the impact of thermal bridging, the type and placement of fixings and supports can exacerbate heat flow through the facade assembly affecting the U value.

For these reasons, it is advised that the Benx technical department is contacted for specific U-value calculations.

## Step 5. Additional rails, and clips.

Follow previous paragraphs about Window and door returns, ventilation beads and also for other interfaces where the boards or panels doesn't cover the façade arrangement, typical detailed drawings are available for several different interfaces and areas of the build-up,

## Step 6. Fix Panels.

Fix the **RockPanel A2** panels to the Allface Support Frame using aluminium rivets head Ø14mm 5x18mm 9.5 to 13.5mm grip range according to the project design.

A joint up to 10mm can be left between adjoining panels creating an open joint rainscreen system.

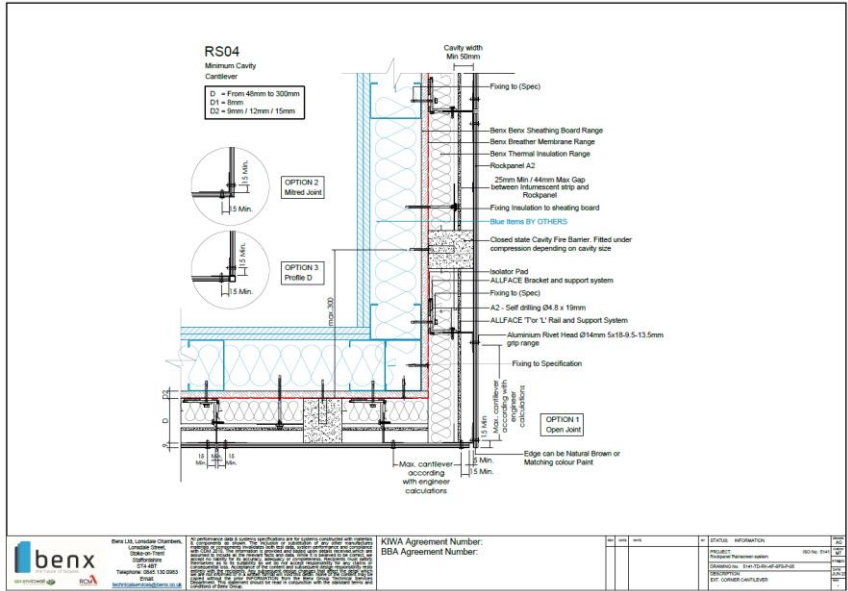
Follow the RockPanel Installation guide.

[Rockpanel Installation Guide.pdf](#)

Step 7. Corners, Jambs, Opening heads.

Jamb return – Jamb returns are created by using sections of the RockPanel A2 Boards cut to the depth of the return. The return panel is fixed back to a timber batten or metal 'L' angles as per the RockPanel details, fixed using the system's rivets or colour matching screws.

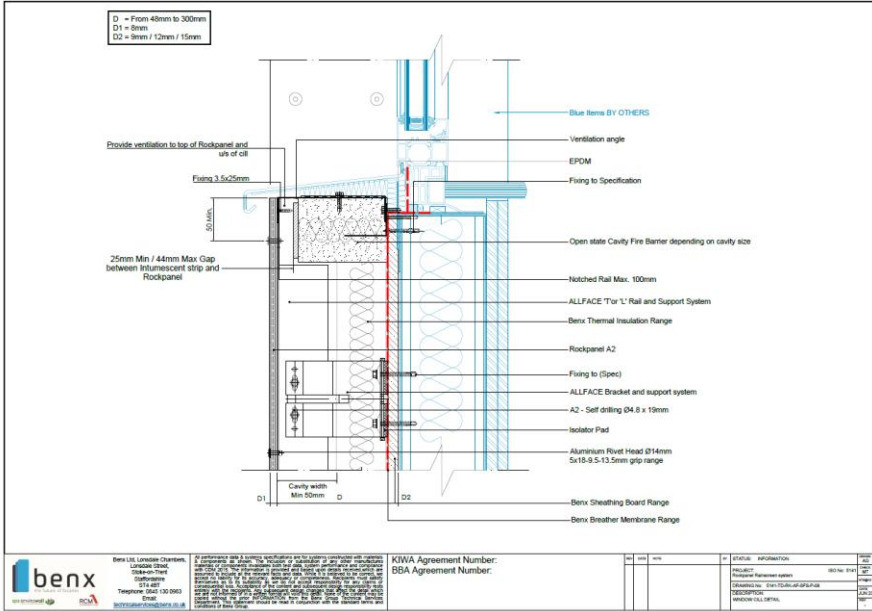
Head Return – the head return must be completed using a ventilation profile to ensure correct ventilation to prevent any deterioration. For any all-other support frames, the head return should be detailed and constructed in the same manner as the jamb return. An EPDM should be installed bridging from the sheathing board the face of the support frame to allow any standing water to escape back into the cavity and exit at the base. Typical detailed drawings are available for several different options for corners, jambs, and heads.



Typical internal corner detail

Step 10. Window details.

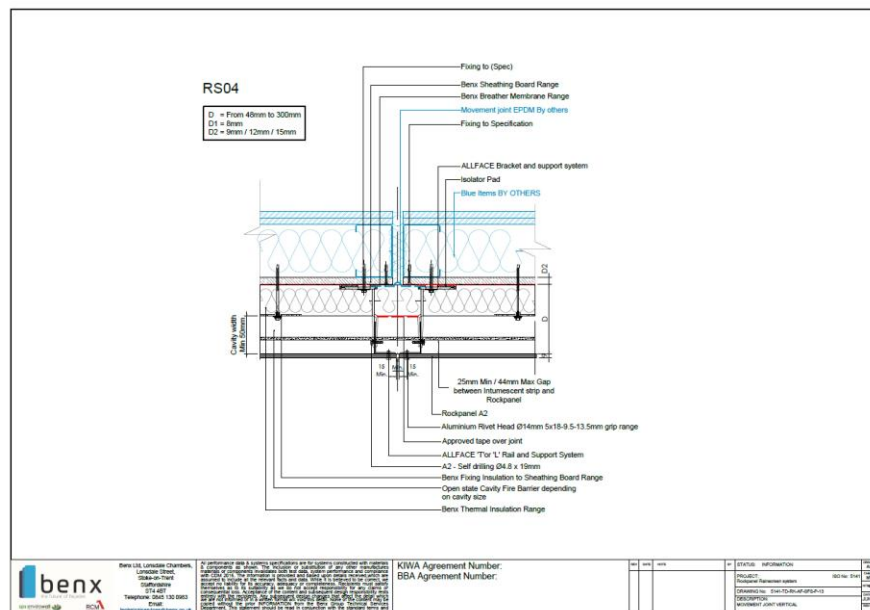
Typical detailed drawings are available for all different areas of windows and doors.



Typical window cill detail

## Step 11. Deflection zone details. (Movement joints)

Typical detailed drawings are available for deflection areas and movement joints, although each project can be different, please contact Benx technical department for advice if required.



Typical movement joint detail

## Step 12. Coastal location information

When installing **Benx RockPanel** system in coastal areas we recommend special attention to wind load calculations, substructure calculations and fixings to reduce the chances of corrosion or movement. Consult Benx Technical Services for recommendations on stainless steel fixings.

Full sized drawings can be found in the appendix.

## Appendix of drawings

**Drawings – Generic substrate on Allface NHBC compliance**

**Drawings – Steel frame substrate on Allface**

**Ancillary Information**

## Off Site

Over the last years, there has been a significant uptake in methods of offsite construction driven by the market demand, the current skills shortage, and changes in environmental regulations. Precast concrete, light gauge steel, engineered timber and volumetric modular are now established approaches to manufacture and delivery.

The increased trend towards offsite manufacturing, particularly in the residential sector, has meant that it is now necessary to call upon these methods of construction to increase output and keep up with demand.

**Benx RockPanel** system across a facade can provide significant benefits to both the project design and its construction timeline. Complex elements such as soffits, lintels, and arches, which require skilled onsite labour, can instead be manufactured offsite under controlled and consistent conditions. We are working with partners in precast concrete, light gauge steel, engineered timber and volumetric modular, developing successful solutions on offsite.

Consult our Sales and technical department for further information.  
[technicalservices@bex.co.uk](mailto:technicalservices@bex.co.uk) or **0800 6124662**

## Health and Safety

When processing **Benx RockPanel** system dust can be released which can cause irritation to airways and eyes. Long term exposure to any dust can be harmful to health.



Wear face protection   Wear hand protection   Wear eye protection

## Maintenance

With normal UK weather conditions, **Benx RockPanel** system does not require a great deal of maintenance to maintain its strength, properties, and function. Environmental impacts may, however, influence the visual appearance. It is, however, best practice to complete an annual inspection of the façade to ensure the integrity of the ventilation gaps, fixings and joints, and action any required maintenance to prolong overall life expectancy.

For coastal locations with generally more aggressive salt laden moist air and wind driven sand more frequent inspections and general maintenance may be required with particular attention to corners, around doors, and windows and façade corner details especially when they face the direction of prevailing winds.