

Plan B

Manufacturing Inc
"Always have a Plan B"

Installation and Maintenance Manual

BL200 and BL400 Fixed 2" and 4" depth Aluminum Louvers

Painting Prep:

The mill finish aluminum may have some dirt or oil still on it. We quickly wipe over the louver with an acetone rag before it ships, but it would be best to clean the louver right before painting with acetone (or with vinegar which will etch the aluminum slightly). Any good latex paint can then be applied. For best results, use self-etching primers which are designed to adhere to aluminum. Sherwin-Williams sells such primers. Auto paint stores also have such primers.

Maximum Size

Maximum single section size is an area of 70 sqft (eg 10ftx7ft or 7ftx10ft, 12ftx5.8ft, etc). The larger (greater than 8 ft) BL400 sections may have vertical structural supports added to the rear which add 1-1/2" to the depth at the support locations. The BL200 sections need support at least every three feet, but preferably every 16 inches.

Installation:

Handle 2" depth louvers by the vertical frame sections and not by the blades or solely by the top frame member. This is especially important for large 2" depth louvers.

Typically one could use #10x1-1/2" Stainless Steel screws for wood or 1/4"x2-3/8" concrete screws (eg Tapcon concrete anchors) for stucco. Be sure to use the vertical flanges to support most of the weight of the 2" louver since they are directly attached to the blades. Do not support 2" louvers only by the top and bottom flanges, you must also use the vertical flanges (not an issue with 4" welded louvers). Don't go more than 16" between screw locations.

A good practice is to apply a heavy coating of bituminous paint on bare aluminum surfaces that will be in contact with concrete, masonry, or dissimilar materials to prevent corrosion or galvanic action.

Use a good quality caulk around the louver to prevent rain water running down the wall to behind the louver flange. It would also be good practice to place caulk on the exterior bottom corner seams of the 2" louver before inserting into the wall to prevent water leaks.



example 2" Louver

example 4" Channel Frame

example 4" rear view Front Flange Frame

Maintenance

Louver life can be maximized by cleaning at least once every 6 months and more often in marine and industrial environments. The powder coating / paint should be washed down with mild soapy water (like Dawn dish soap or a car wash soap - Don't use "Simple Green" or other aggressive soap or soap that has abrasives) -- and rinse off with clean water.

Extrusion touch up can spray paint that can be found in Lowes or Home Depot's Screen Door Section is a good match for our standard White Louvers. Wipe down the small area to be touched up with acetone to clean away any oil or grime before using the spray paint.

Inspect the caulking every 6 months and remove old caulking and re-caulk if necessary. Make sure the louver is attached securely and has not become loose.