

Design Guide to MCM Panel Systems

Many factors influence the cost and usefulness of MCM panel systems. Following the process outlined below will help to ensure an efficient system.

UNDERSTAND THE COST ASSOCIATED WITH YOUR SELECTED FINISH

Choosing a manufacturer's standard finish provides the least expensive option. Pricing will vary between manufacturer's standard solid color, mica finishes and metallic finishes. Solid colors are the least expensive and natural metal finishes are the most expensive.

Custom colors are available but set up costs and premium price will be required for projects with less than 10,000 square footage of exposed panel areas with the selected custom color. Pricing for custom colors on larger project is very comparable to standard finishes.

PANEL MODULAR SIZES

MCM panels can be fabricated in many custom sizes. When designing wall panels consider the manufacturer's standard widths are 50" and 62". For best use of materials, panels should be designed around a standard modular size of 48" or 60" width – utilizing the 50" and 62" materials with 1" route and return legs. The width of panels detailed can affect the yield of finished materials from the stock materials – increasing the amount of "drop" materials and the price per square foot for finished product.

Additionally, larger panels sizes allow for a lower price per SF. From a fabrication of panels perspective, a similar amount of shop labor is required to fabricate panels regardless of size. Additionally, smaller panels require more extrusions than larger panels (a project with mostly 2' x 2' panels will require 2x more extrusions than a project with mostly 4' x 4' panels and 4x more extrusion than a project with mostly 4' x 8' panels).

CURVED VS FLAT PANELS

MCM panels can be fabricated into many various geometric shapes – including curved panels. Pricing of MCM wall panels is affected by the complexity of the panel shape; flat wall panels are more economical than multi-faceted panels, and curved wall panels are most expensive. Additionally, MCM panels have a minimum radius of 9".

PANEL CORE AND THICKNESS

4mm materials are more economical than 6mm. PE/Standard (Polyethylene) core is more economical than FR/Fire Retardant core materials. Consult the building code to make sure the appropriate materials are specified. As a rule of thumb, MCM materials over 40' from grade will require FR core materials.

PANEL SYSTEMS

There are several different MCM panel systems available, in order of least expensive to most expensive:

- Exposed Sealant System
- Exposed Fastener Face Fastened System
- Rainscreen – Dry joint reveal system
- Pressure-Equalized Rainscreen System

ASK FOR ASSISTANCE

PPC is ready to provide expert guidance at any stage of the planning process. Call us direct at **(800) 341-3325** or [email us](#).