

THE USE OF OPEN JOINTS

For many years TWEHA advises to omit the use of joint profiles in combination with more or less porous materials, such as natural stone or cement fiber panels.

Despite our advice and experience, a joint profile still seems to be applied regularly. There will be capillary action or suction of (rain)water in the narrow space between the cladding and joint profile. As a result of which the porous façade sheets will continually come into contact with water and at long last will fill up with small amounts of water.

Resulting in fungal growth, green deposits and crumbling edges are the result. The use of a joint profile is a cause for this phenomenon. A knowledgeable installer knows that the application of a joint profile must be avoided and therefore will strongly advise you to omit the application of a joint profile.

In case of open joints, you really do not have to worry about the moisture management in your façade construction provided that the air cavity behind the cladding is sufficiently ventilated.

In the event of a rain shower, the largest amount of rainwater is discharged along the façade surface. As a result of the negative pressure in the air cavity, the small amount that still penetrates through the open joint is discharged at the rear of the façade panel.

In case of insufficient ventilation, due to temperature differences inside and outside the air cavity, condensation can also occur at the rear of the façade panel.

A permanent air circulation in the air cavity ensures that this environment dries up quickly. The open joints contribute to a fast and even process of drying and it ensures that moisture can be removed fast, which significantly reduces the chance of contamination of, for example, moss or fungal and algae growth.

Studies show that the moisture management in a ventilated façade construction with an open joint (8-10 mm) functions excellently.