




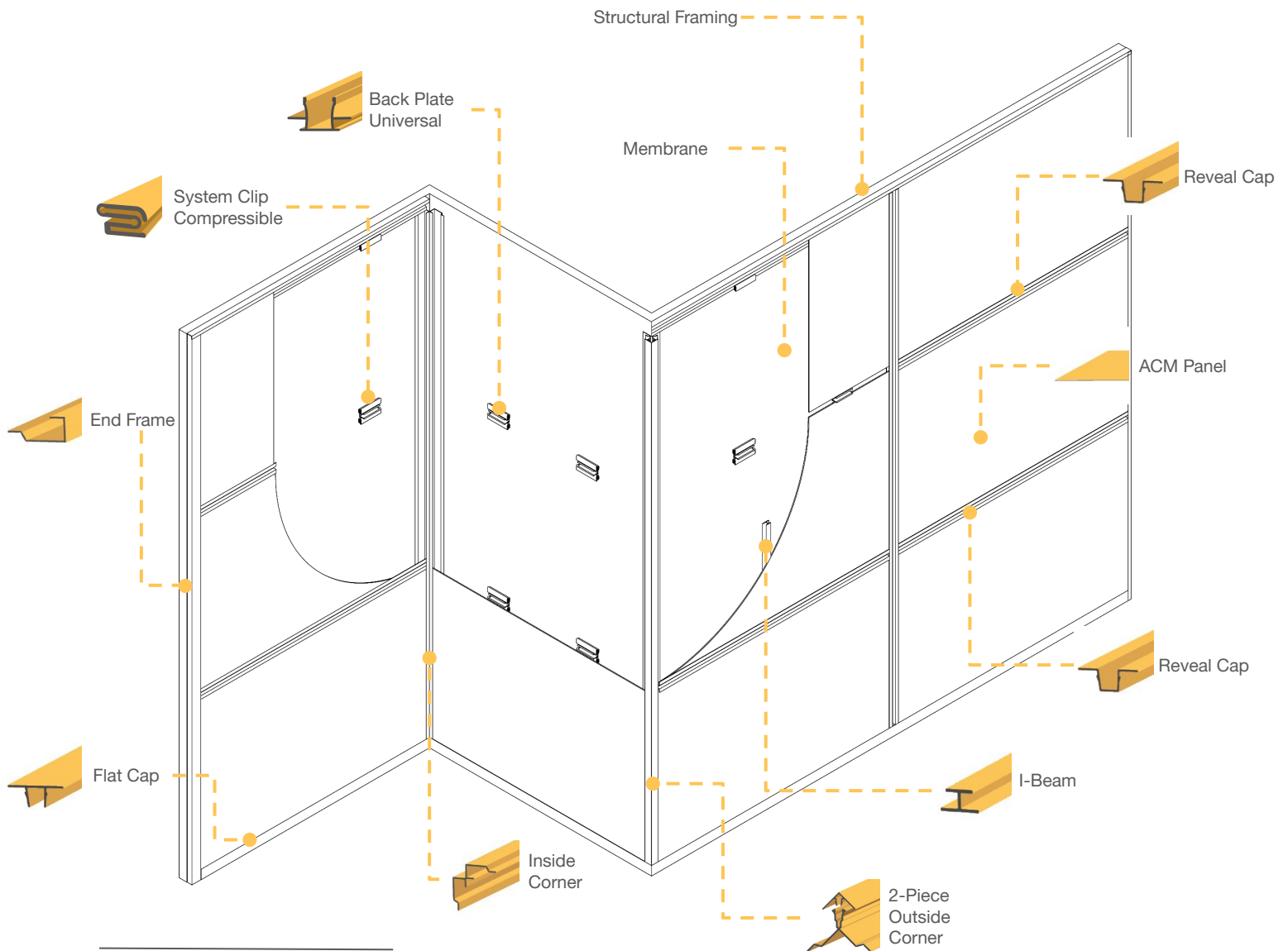
**panel**<sup>®</sup>  
system

## Installation Guide

 **AL13** architectural  
systems



# AL13 Panel System



The backplates and various caps use an interference fit and require an impact to engage the two components. Ensure that the substrate is solid enough to sustain this impact.

# 01

---

## Installation Guidelines 1

**IMPORTANT: Failure to follow the guidelines herein will void the AL13® warranty**

Please read and understand this guide. Any questions or inconsistencies should be directed to [info@al13.com](mailto:info@al13.com).

Guidelines may vary depending on project particulars and conditions. Contact AL13® with questions regarding variance from this guide. Standard carpentry skills are required for optimum results.

Good health and safety practices must be followed when installing AL13® Panel System.  
Please refer to the AL13® Material Safety Data Sheets for more info.

---

### Key steps for a successful installation

- 01 Understand the various elements of the system
- 02 Plan the installation, work schedule, layout, and material usage
- 03 Ensure everyone working has read the installation guidelines
- 04 Execute work in the sequence set forth in the installation guidelines
- 05 Protection should be worn: gloves, ear protection, steel-toe boots, safety glasses and hard hat
- 06 Protect the product by storing the material in a dry and clean environment
- 07 Ensure proper fit of the system
- 08 Upon completion of installation, remove protective film and clean any debris on the wall

---

### Pre-installation: Receiving materials

When materials arrive on site, ensure that all panels, extrusions and other component packaging are in good condition, free of any defects, and verify that the materials match the order / shop drawings.

- > Shipping or packaging issues should be noted on the waybill and then reported to the distributor
- > Should any products be damaged, the receiving party is responsible for filling a freight claim to the shipping company within 24 hours of receiving product.
- > Defective materials should be reported to the distributor from which the product was dispatched.

# 01








## Installation Guidelines 2

Product Legend: This installation guide discusses various components of the system and uses component reference blocks. Please refer to the following to verify the correct component.

Component	Size / piece	Material
 3mm ACM Panel	4' x 8' sheet	AAMA 2605 coated with PE core or FR core
 4mm ACM Panel	4' x 8' sheet	AAMA 2605 coated with PE core or FR core
 End Frame	8' length	AAMA 2605 coated aluminum extrusion
 Inside Corner	8' length	AAMA 2605 coated aluminum extrusion
 Outside Corner	8' length	AAMA 2605 coated aluminum extrusion
 Flat Cap: Perimeter	8' length	AAMA 2605 coated aluminum extrusion
 Flat Cap	8' length	AAMA 2605 coated aluminum extrusion
 Reveal Cap: Perimeter	8' length	AAMA 2605 coated aluminum extrusion
 Reveal Cap	8' length	AAMA 2605 coated aluminum extrusion
 Two Piece Outside Corner	8' length	<i>Outside Corner Cap:</i> AAMA 2605 coated aluminum extrusion  <i>Backplate:</i> PVDF coated aluminum extrusion








# 01

## Installation Guidelines 3

Component	Size / piece	Material
 Back Plate: Universal	8' length	Black powder coated aluminum extrusion
 I-Beam	8' length	Aluminum extrusion
 System Clip: Compressible	Package of 100ea	Glass-filled polyamide
 Wood Fastener	500/package 1-1/2in long	Wood Substrate: #12-14 x 1 1/2" mini drill-point fasteners with EPDM washers and corrosion-resistant coating
 Concrete Fastener	100/package 1-1/4in long	Concrete walls: #11 x 1 1/4" concrete screw anchor with corrosion-resistant coating
 Metal Fastener	500/package 3/4in long	Steel substrate: #10-16 x 3/4" self-drilling, self-tapping screws with corrosion resistant coating
 Adhesive Tape	108' roll	AL13 double-sided acrylic adhesive tape

# 01

## Installation Guidelines 4

Install Kit Components	Size / piece	Material
 80T Non-ferrous Saw Blade	10" - each	Carbide tip / high-speed steel
 60T Non-ferrous Saw Blade	6-1/4" - each	Carbide tip / high-speed steel
 Gloves	pair	Rubber / lycra
 SLED: Flat	each	Plastic and rubber
 SLED: Reveal	each	Plastic and rubber
 SLED: Corner	each	Plastic and rubber
 Suction Cup	each	Coated aluminum

---

# Installation Guidelines 5

## Inventory

Once material is verified to be in good condition, take inventory of units according to the packing slip. Make sure all materials - panel, extrusion, fasteners, and adhesive tape - and quantities are present.

*The distributor should be notified immediately if the order has any missing or incomplete components. Failure to do so may void re-fulfillment.*

---

## Material Handling

AL13® ACM System panels are shipped on pallets in fifty (50) sheets or fewer. The sheets are secured in place with metal strapping and covered with protective wrap. Panels should be kept in their original packaging or similar and moved by a forklift or pallet jack.

Once a pallet is unwrapped and metal straps are cut, panels may be moved individually. Ensure to use clean work gloves to protect from sharp edges and keep panels clean. Panels must be first lifted vertically away from the pallet, then away—DO NOT DRAG OR SLIDE PANELS.

Store all materials in a clean and dry environment, both before and after materials are unpacked

Wear gloves when handling materials, and use suction cups when mounting panels to the wall. Be sure to wear eye and ear protection when cutting materials. Always wear appropriate personal protective equipment.

---

## Tools

Our Panel System is made to be installed with general tools. A recommended tool list is as follows:

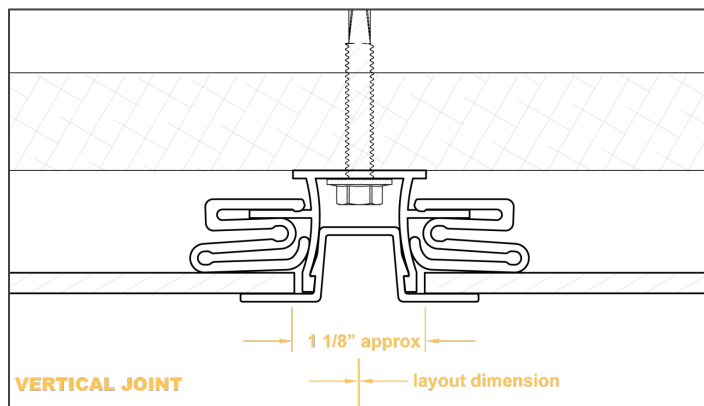
- |                                                  |                                   |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| > Sawhorses/work table                           | > Jigsaw                          |
| > Circular saw, handheld with guide              | > File (for deburring cut sheets) |
| > Table saw                                      | > Level/plumb line                |
| > Cordless electric impact with appropriate bits | > Chalk line                      |
| > AL13 saw blades                                | > Cordless electric drill         |
| > AL13 SLED tool                                 | > Drill bit set                   |
| > AL13 suction cups                              |                                   |



## Installation Guidelines 6

### Panel Layout

It is important to commence work with good construction practice and schedule work with other trades to avoid delays. Once installation begins it must not be delayed for any length of time as damage may occur to the system, substrate or both due to exposure to the elements. Before any installation begins, it is imperative to plan the layout of the system. The architectural plans/elevations should be reviewed to determine the appropriate 'grid' for the system. Should no such plans be available, measure areas to develop a pattern that will maximize panel size, aesthetics and minimize fabrication.



Standard panel size is 4 ft x 8 ft (1220 mm x 2440 mm). Do not use these dimensions for determining layout lines, adequate space must be left between panels for extrusions.

### Material Use

Once the layout has been determined, double check that there is an adequate amount of materials present for the application at hand. Since estimation takeoffs and quantities are based on panel layout, any installation varying from the original plan may affect quantities and cause material shortages. Make sure to check the cut plan to determine if this will result in any further shortages. When calculating material usage, note that vertical extrusions - in most cases - will carry through continuously, while the horizontals tuck and terminate under the tabs of the verticals.



# 01

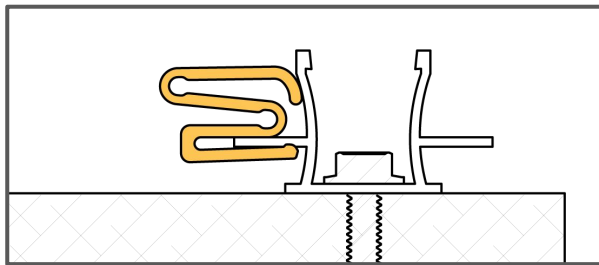


## Installation Guidelines 7

### System Clip Compressible

The System Clip Compressible provides a perfect fit between the framing components and the panel without the need for extra fasteners, adhesives, or caulking. Familiarize yourself with installing the System Clip Compressible correctly in order to achieve this perfect fit.

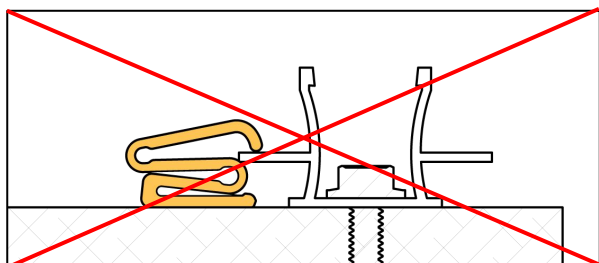
#### CORRECT



Install the system clip correctly by ensuring the Backplate is inserted into the engaging slot as shown.

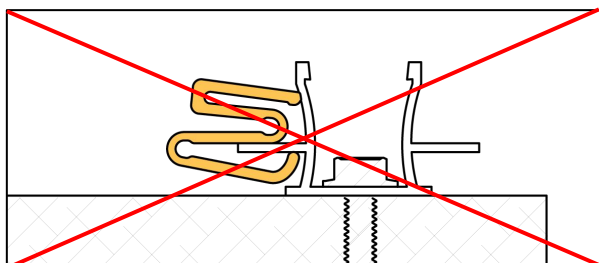
The System Clip Compressible should glide in easily and snap into the Backplate when fully inserted.

#### INCORRECT



Note that the System Clip Compressible presses up against the panels, hence the majority of its body needs to rest towards the panel.

This incorrect installation will not provide the correct fit between the framing and the ACM panels.



This incorrect, upside-down installation will also not provide the correct fit between the framing and the ACM panels.

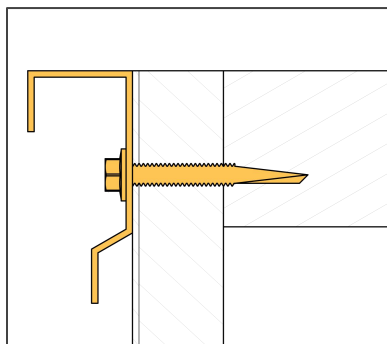
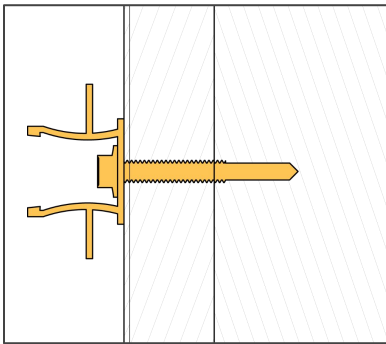


## Installation Guidelines 8

### Supported Substrates

#### Wood Frame with OSB/Plywood Sheathing

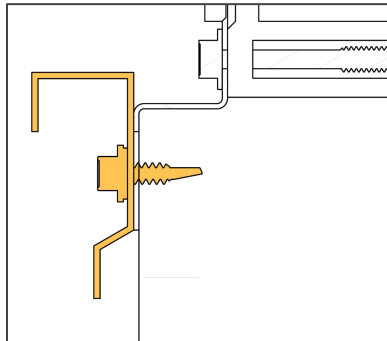
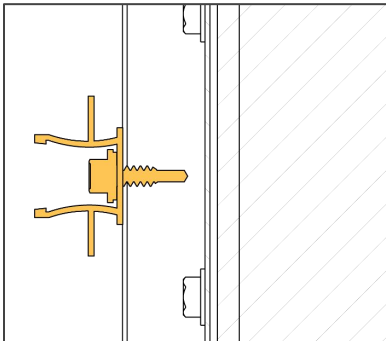
For installation on wood substrates, plywood, and OSB, AL13® Wood Fasteners must be used. For sheathed wood frame, AL13® installs directly on building wrap. The mechanical fasteners anchor into building sheathing and studs where available.



Wood Fastener

#### Girt/Furring Bar Installation

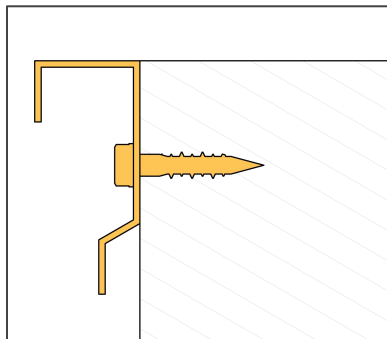
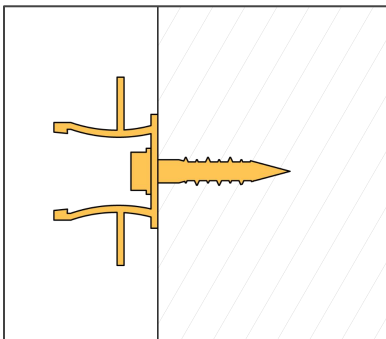
For installation on girt or furring bars, use metal fasteners.



Metal Fastener

#### Concrete Installation

For installation on concrete, use concrete fasteners/anchors.



Concrete Fastener

# 01

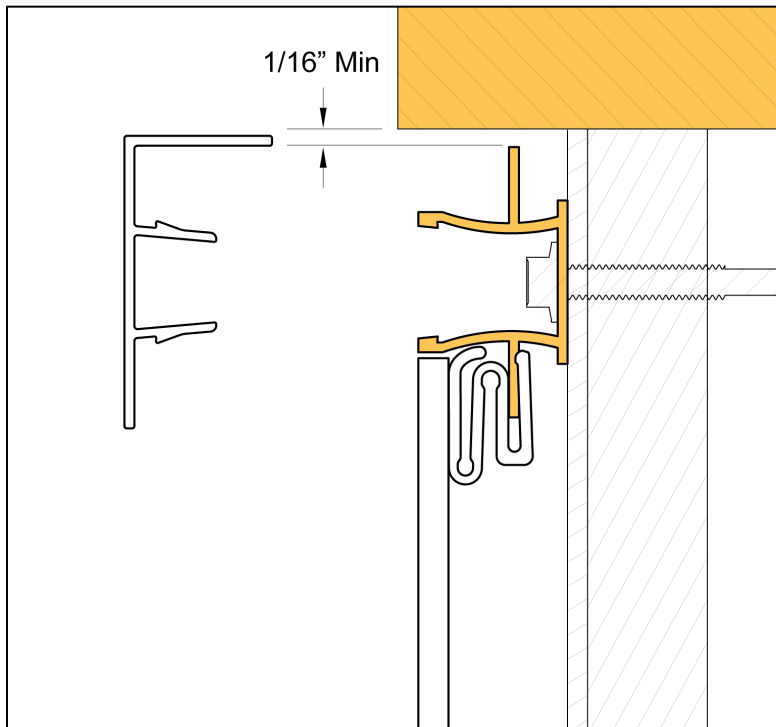
AL13 How-To



## Installation Guidelines 9

### Installation near Windows, Doors, and other Bump-Outs

When installing around a perimeter terminated with a Back Plate Universal, leave a minimum gap of 1/16" from the edge of the Back Plate to the perimeter border. This allows sufficient space for a top cap to be installed.



Leave a minimum of 1/16" gap between the edge of a perimeter (e.g., windows, doors, bump-outs) and the Back Plate Universal.

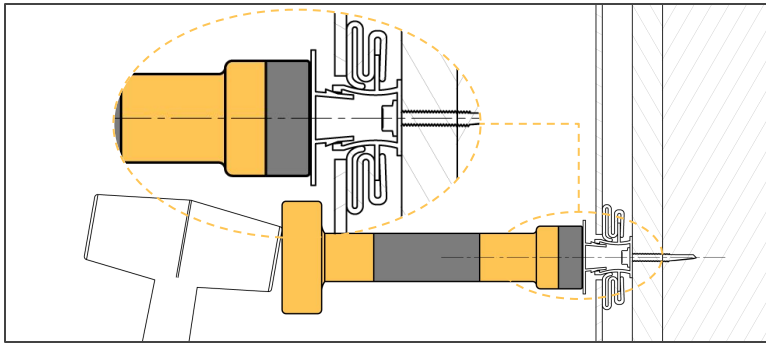


## Installation Guidelines 10


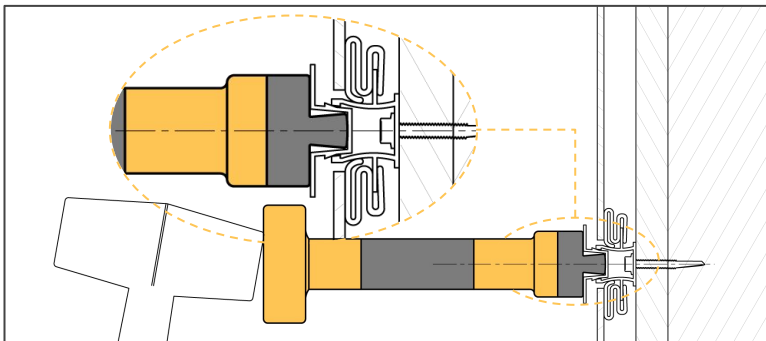
### Installing the Top Caps

Panels are fastened by the frame tabs on the top caps around the entire perimeter. No traditional mechanical fasteners are required in the panel itself.


Ensure that the correct Snap-Lock Engagement Device (SLED) is used for the appropriate cap. Use a rubber mallet together with the appropriate SLED to install the top caps.



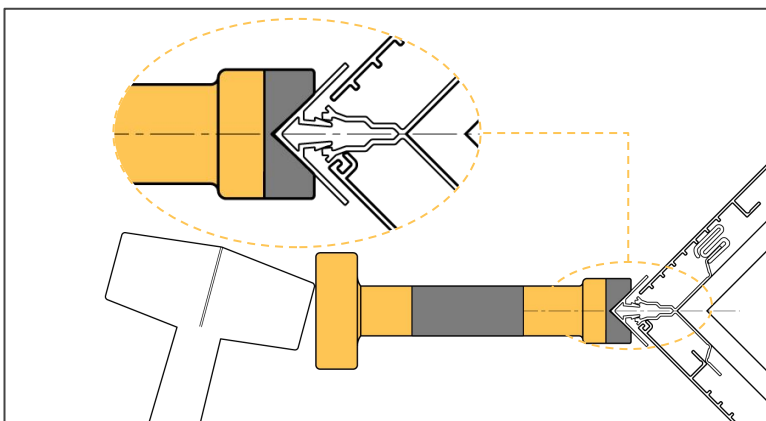
Flat Cap and  
Flat Cap: Perimeter  
require the Flat SLED


Reveal Cap and  
Reveal Cap: Perimeter  
require the Reveal SLED



A protrusion at the bottom of the SLED fits inside the reveal of the cap to ensure proper installation.



2-Piece Outside Corner Cap  
requires the 2OC SLED

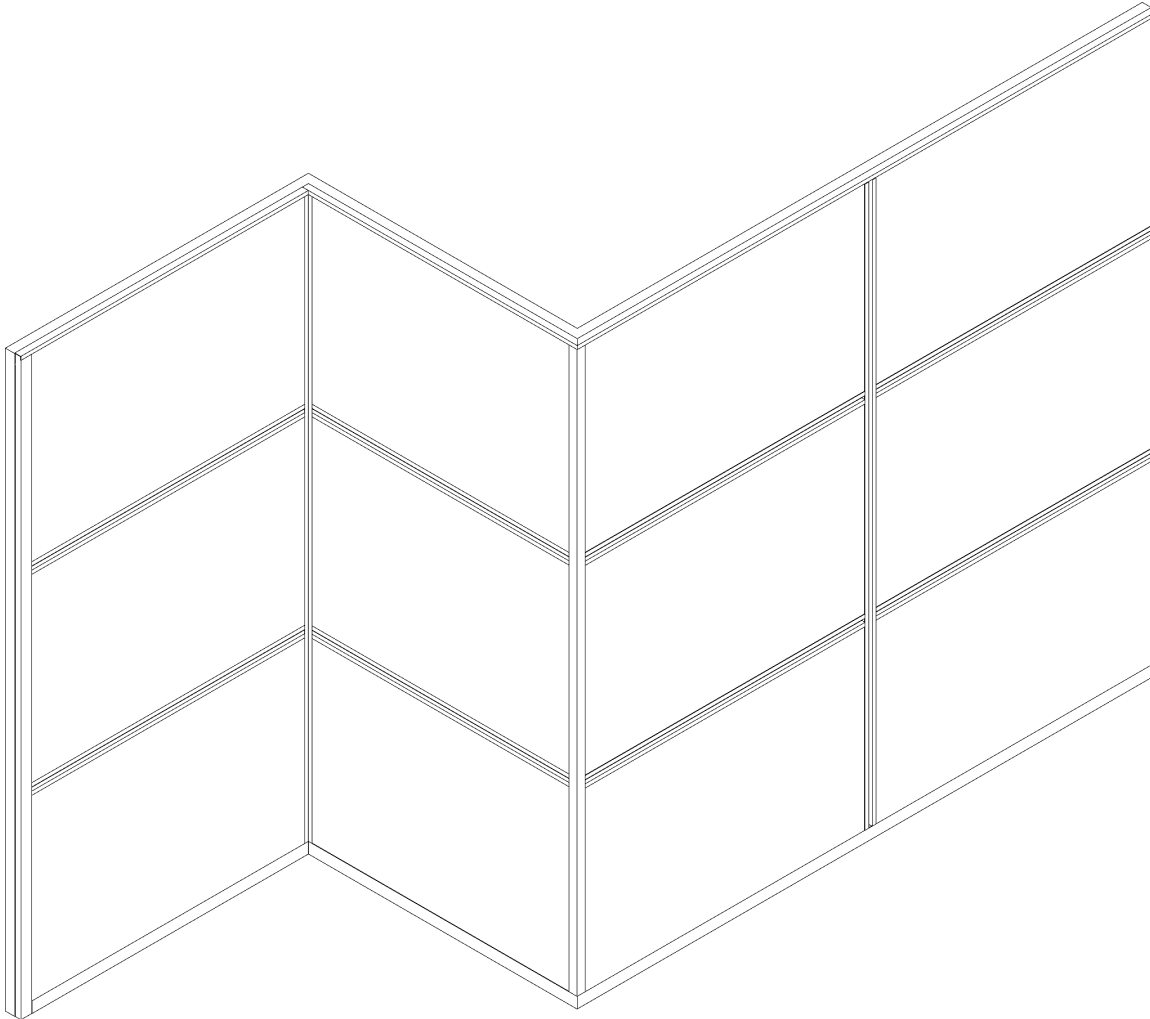


A cutout at the bottom of the SLED captures the geometry of the Outside Corner cap to ensure proper installation.



## Panel Install 01

Example Wall



The first part of the installation guide outlines a basic install on a flat wall as illustrated above in its completed form. The subsequent sections will outline more intricate details like inside corners, outside corners, windows, doors, overhangs, and build-outs. (Please be sure to have read the General Install section first).

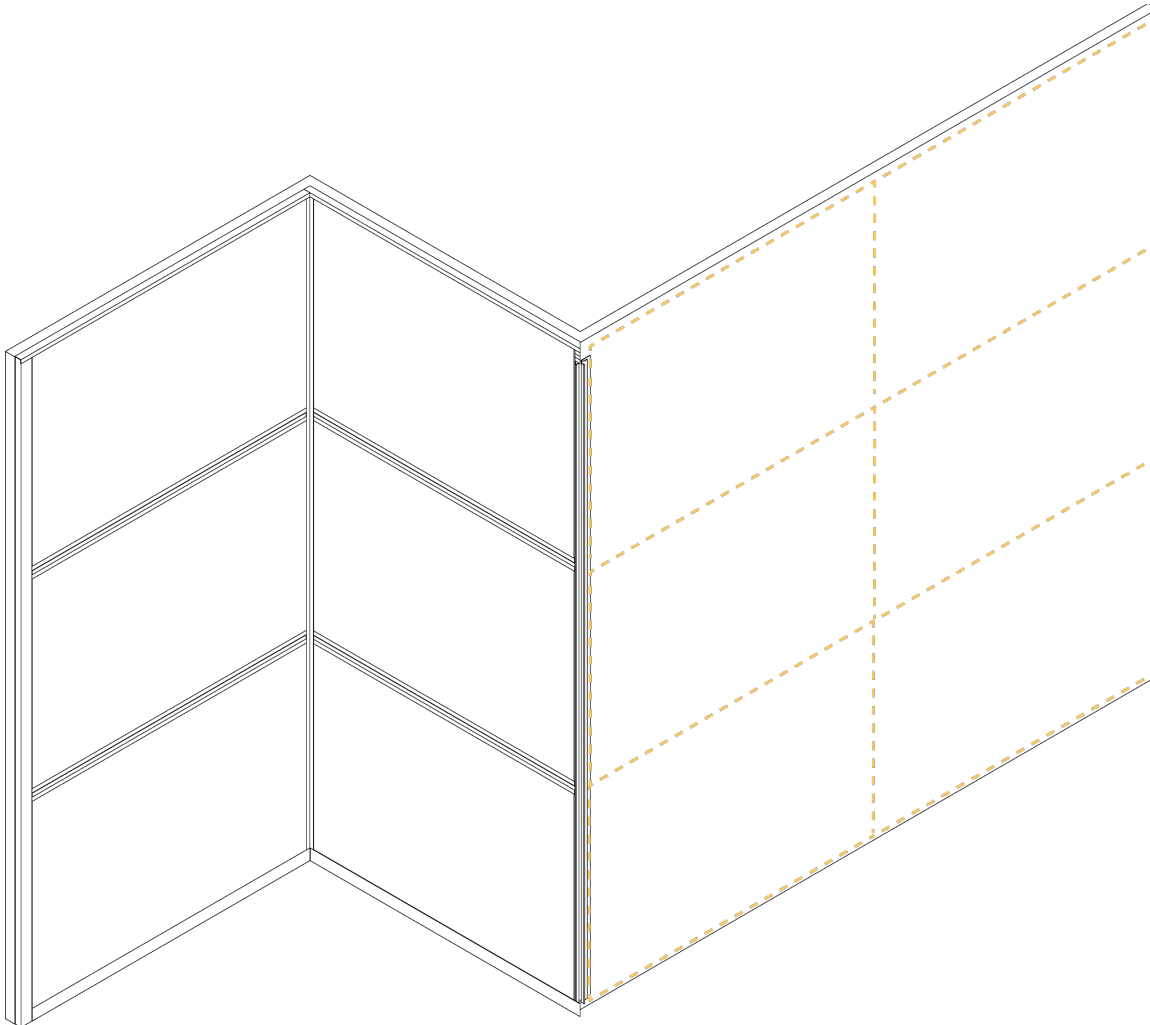
The building envelope, which includes a weather barrier and all applicable flashings, must be completed to local building code before any AL13® component is to be laid out or installed.

# 02



## Panel Install 02

Laying out the grid.

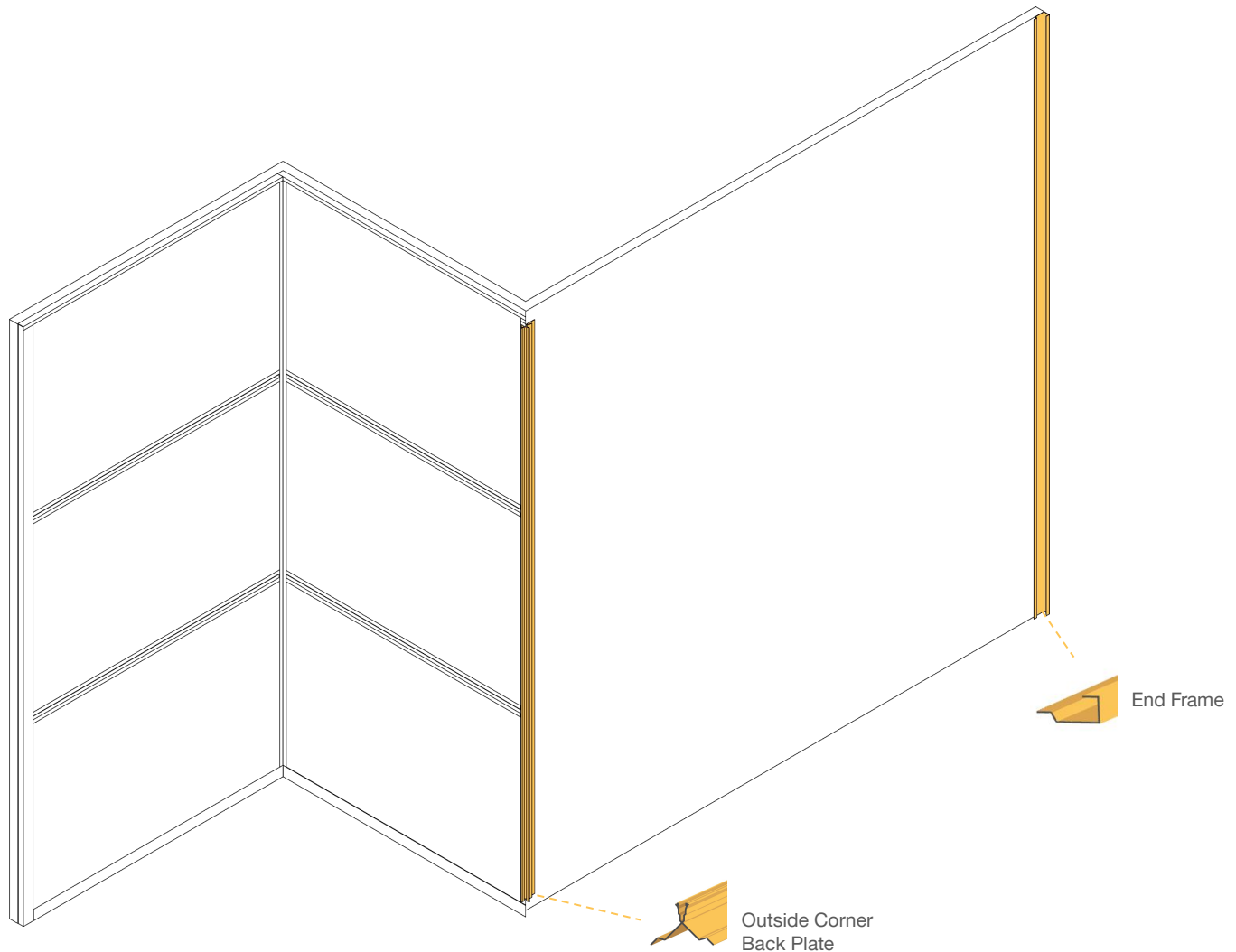


Using the chosen layout, determine the best suited datum - or starting point - shown here as the lower left corner. Lay out the panel grid using chalk lines (or similar) from the datum point, ensuring that all lines are plumb or level. These lines are to indicate the locations of the extruded frame components that will secure and frame the ACM panel.



## Panel Install 03

Fasten vertical perimeter extrusions.



Measure and cut the vertical End Frames according to the marked grid lines. If the top of the vertical End Frame is to meet another horizontal End Frame at 90 degrees, a 45-degree mitre cut is to be made on both parts to complete the angle. This will eliminate the need to notch extrusions. If the wall is to be finished with a half back plate and perimeter cap, the 45-degree mitre is not necessary, as the horizontal cap will tuck behind the vertical end frames.

It is the preferred method to fasten the top part of the extrusion first (upper 3"), then the bottom (lower 3"), followed by all fasteners in between. Typical fastener spacing on all extrusions with the 4mm ACM Panel system is to be no greater than 24" with a minimum of 2 fasteners per extrusion. Fastener spacing may be increased, to add additional pull out capacity. Consult the fastener specifications guide to determine fastener type and spacing.

*\*An Outside Corner Frame, Inside Corner Frame, or a Perimeter Frame Assembly may be used in place of the End Frame in this situation. The End Frame is shown here only to keep the scope of this guide relatively simple.*

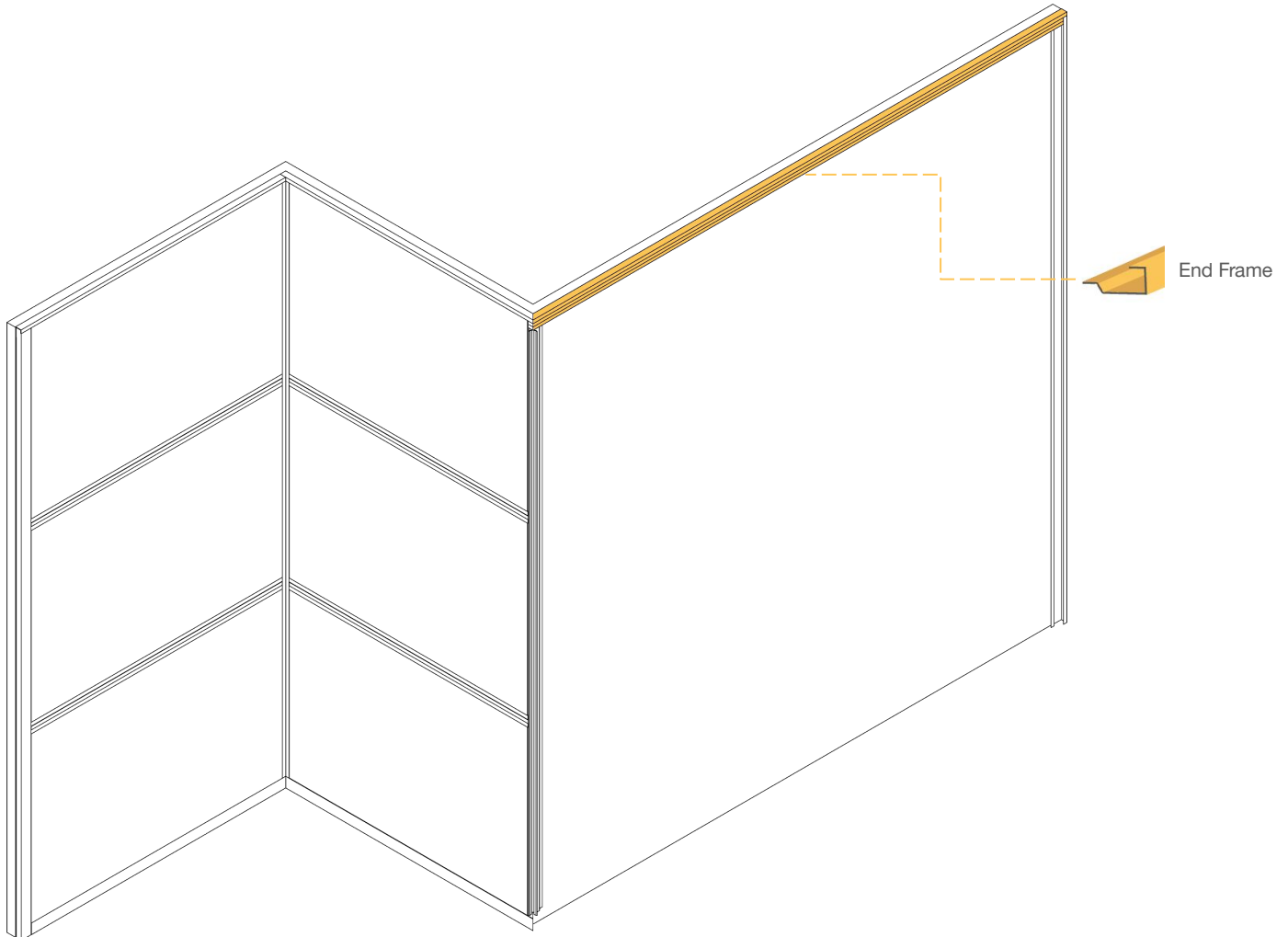
# 02

AL13 How-To



## Panel Install 04

Fasten top horizontal extrusion.



The upper End Frame is next to be measured and cut-to-size. A double mitre could be required if the vertical End Frames are mitred at 45 degrees (as outlined in the previous step).

If one length of the End Frame extrusion is not long enough to span the distance required, it is necessary to use a second piece and butt the two together. Take care in aligning joints so that they are flush, shim as needed.



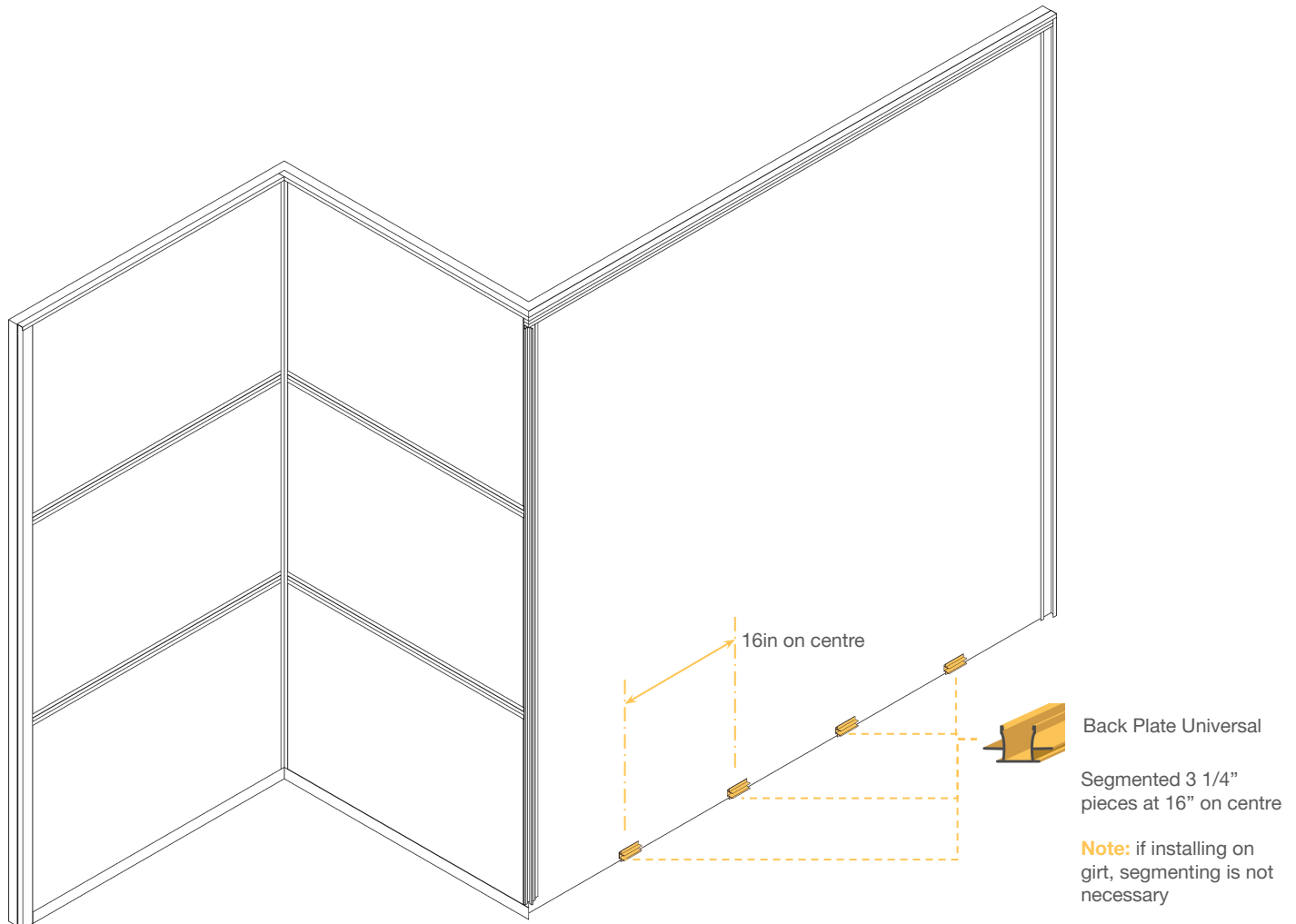
# 02

AL13 How-To



## Panel Install 05

Fasten baseline extrusion backplates.



The AL13® Panel System is a rain screen system that does not require any strapping.

The bottom row comprises segmented half back plate sections, cut to a length of 3 1/4" and installed every 16". This ensures that, at any given horizontal cutaway, only 20 % of the material is attached to the wall to an 80 % open cavity. This provides necessary capillary break and fulfills the rainscreen requirements.



**Note:** In some installations, more than a full length of a top cap may be required. In this case, ensure that the seam is supported adequately by a back plate.

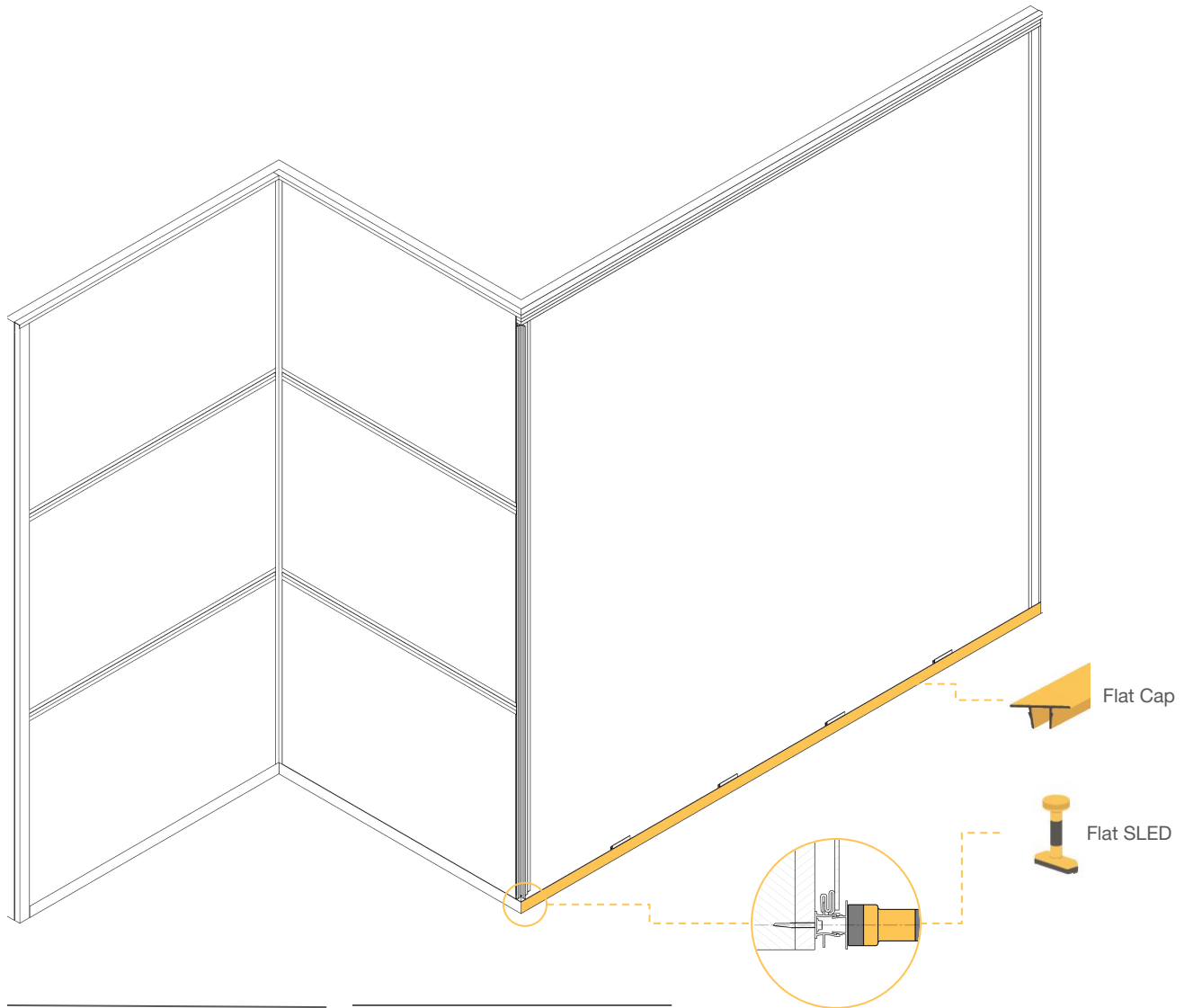
# 02

AL13 How-To



## Panel Install 06

Fasten baseline extrusion.



Measure and cut the bottom horizontal top cap. A proper fit will ensure that either end may be tucked into the vertical end frames, leaving a minimum 1/8" gap to allow for proper contraction and expansion of the extrusion.

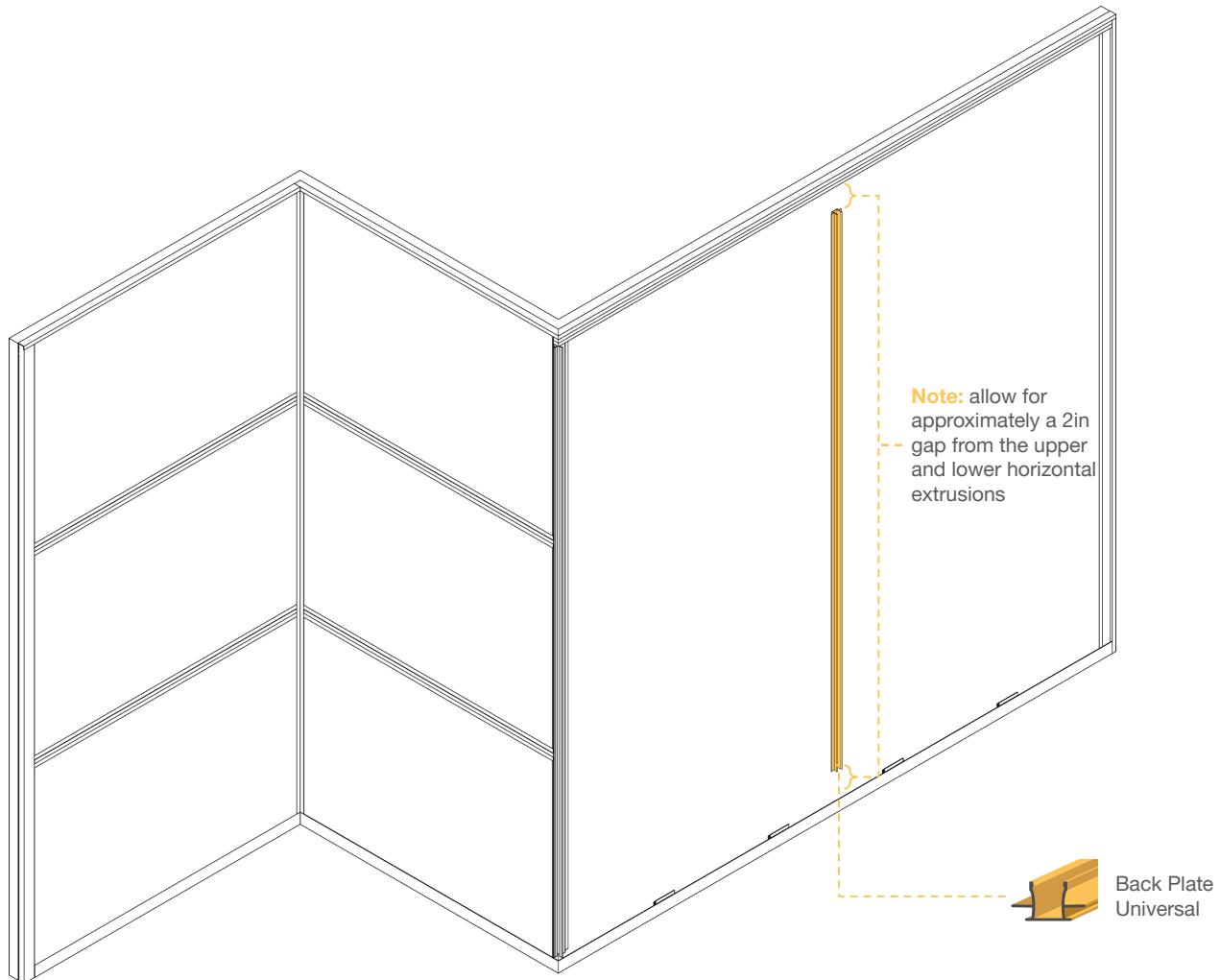
Engage the top cap into the segmented back plates using an AL13@ SLED with a rubber mallet. It is imperative to only make contact where back plates are present so as not to damage or warp the top cap.



# 02

## Panel Install 07

Fasten vertical back plate.



Measure and cut the vertical full back plate. Allow for approximately 2" gap from horizontal upper and lower extrusions to allow for proper top cap installation. Begin by fastening the top of the extrusion first (upper 3"), followed by the bottom (lower 3"), then the intermediate fasteners.

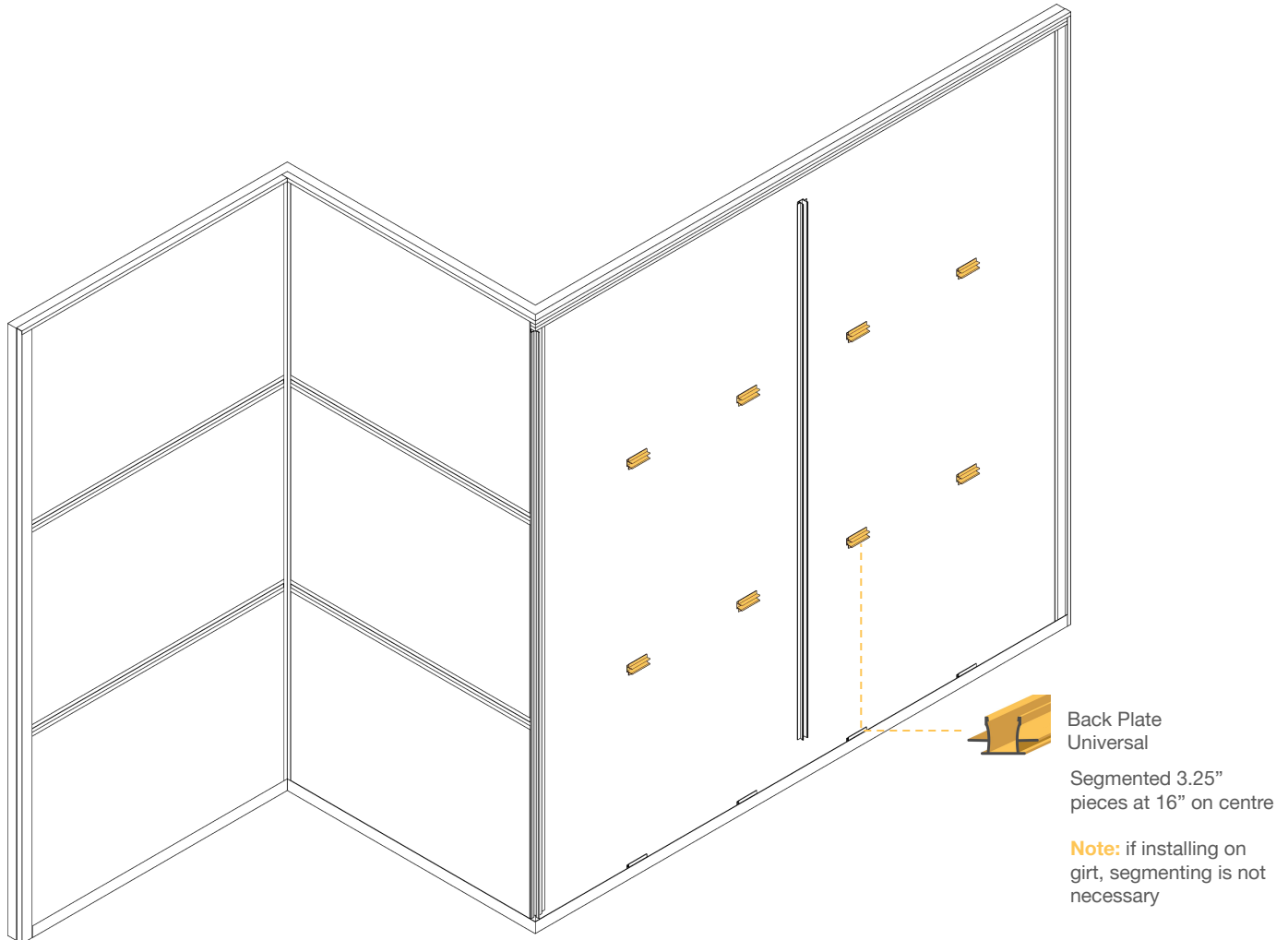
# 02

AL13 How-To



## Panel Install 08

Fasten horizontal full back plate segments.



Measure and cut horizontal back plates in 3 1/4" segments and install them every 16" as per the layout. If you are fastening to a minimum of 1/2" ply or OSB sheathing, it is not necessary to fasten segments to a stud. It is recommended to pre-drill the holes in the segmented back plate pieces. This will prevent the small pieces from spinning while fastening - which aides in eliminating the possibility of a cut hazzard.

It is important to install the segments ensuring they are completely plumb and straight. A Level or straight edge may be used to assist with alignment.

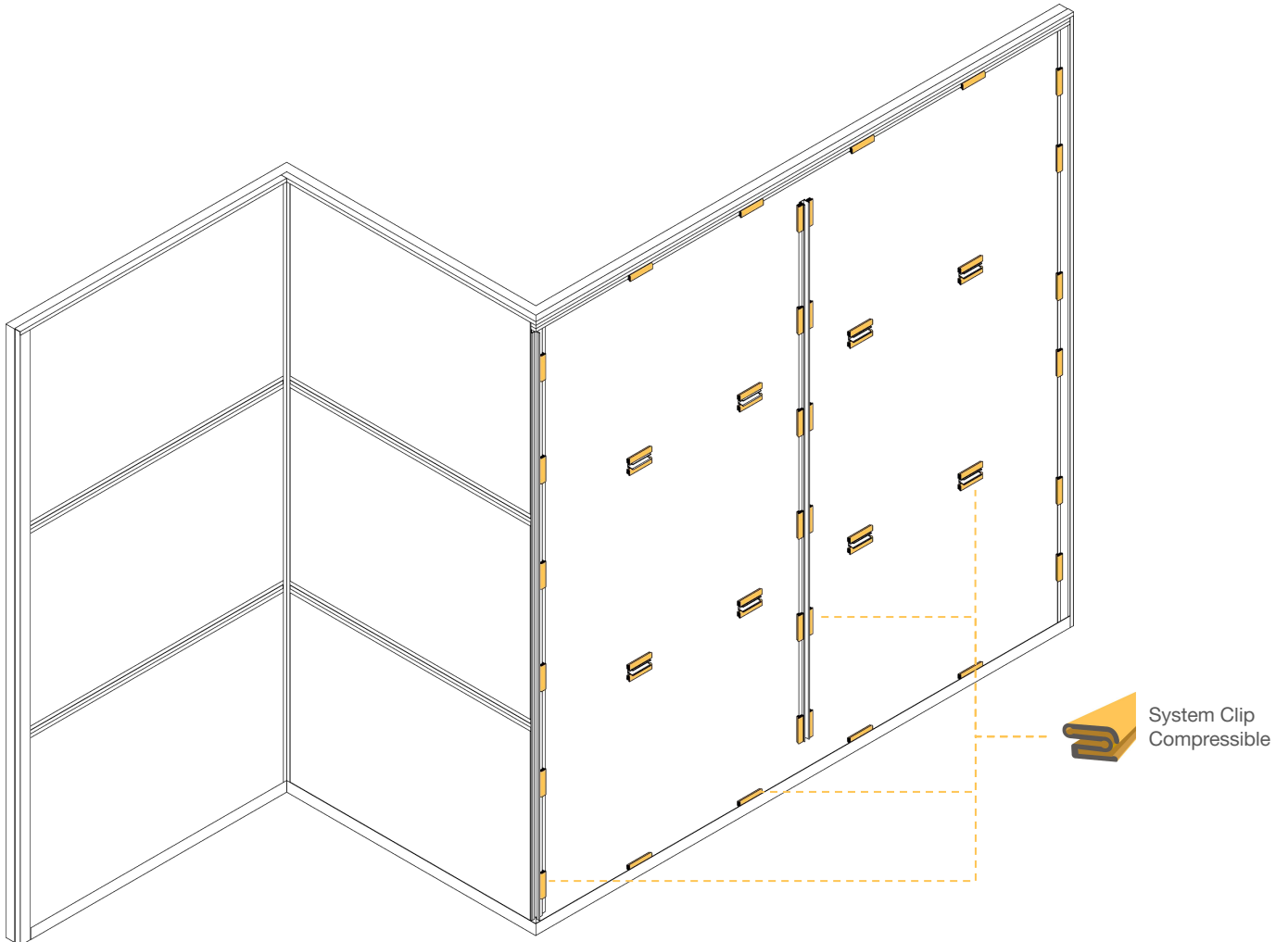
# 02

## Panel Install 09

AL13 How-To



Attach system clips.



Once all extrusions have been installed it is time to attach system clips to all the extruded frame components. Systems clips act as spacers and are installed with the thin tab pointing towards the wall and the thicker portion facing away from the wall. System clips keep the panels tight to the frame without the need for adjustment.

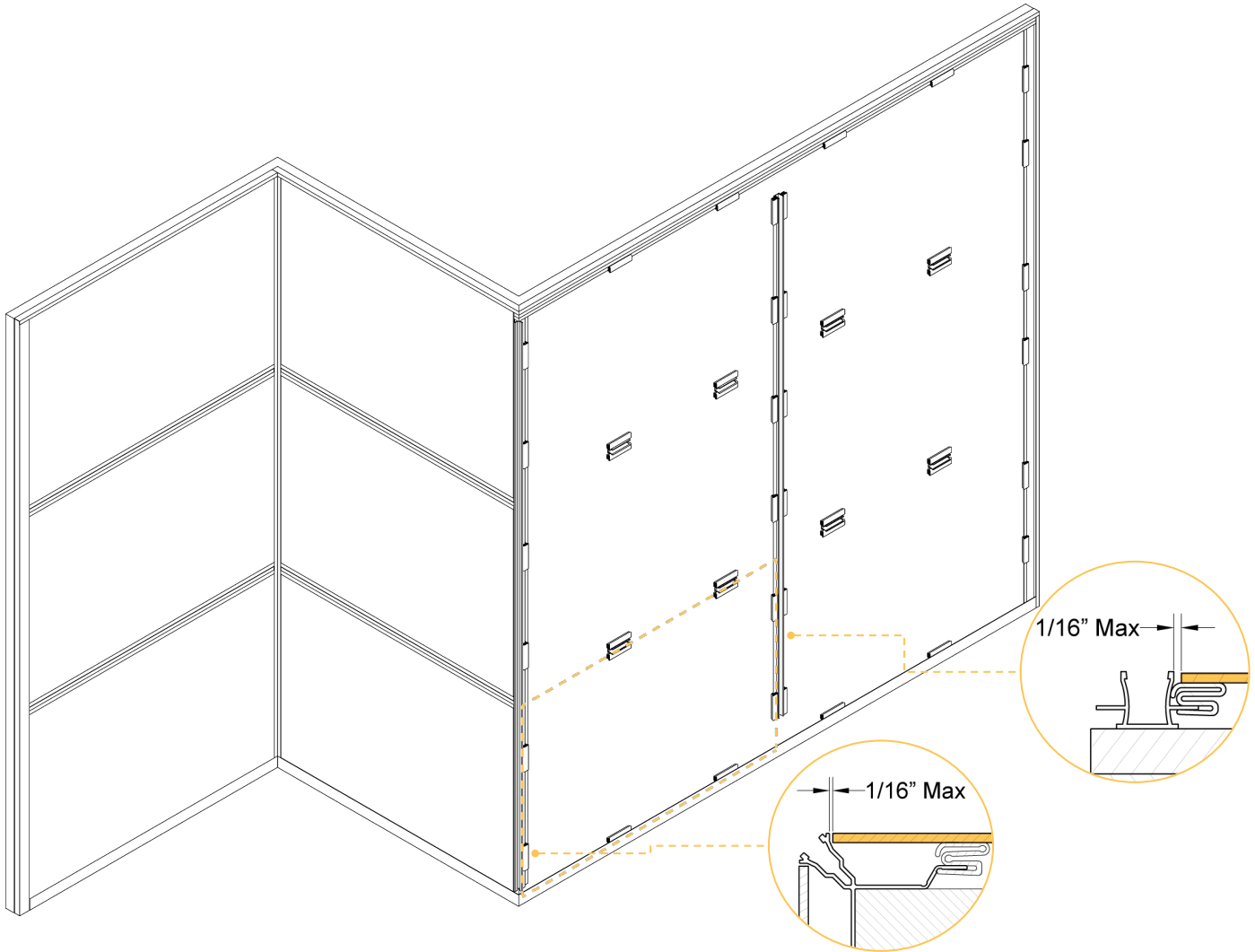
System clips are to be attached at a minimum every 16", or 1 system clip per tab on the smaller segmented horizontal pieces. Position system clips 6-8" away from corners and intersections.

System clips are intended to be a firm and secure friction fit. Repeated attempts pulling the clip off and snapping it back on may weaken the integrity of a clip. Once a clip has been snapped in place, it should not be repeatedly taken off and snapped back on. If any clip is found to have been weakened through repetitive use, it should be discarded and a new one used in its place to ensure a secure fit.



## Panel Install 10

ACM Panel fit



Once a panel is ready to be fit, it may be taken off the stack. Make sure not to drag sheets across, rather lift the sheet up off the stack, then away. Although the panels have a protective film applied from the factory, reckless panel handling may cause damage to the panel through the wrap. It is recommended that at least two persons carry one sheet. The protective film should be peeled back approximately 1" (25 mm) from the edges, but should remain on the panel otherwise.

The ACM Panel may need to be cut down if a smaller size from the standard 4 ft x 8 ft (1220 x 2440 mm) is required. This may be done on a standard circular saw, panel saw or table saw - so long as an AL13® blade is used.

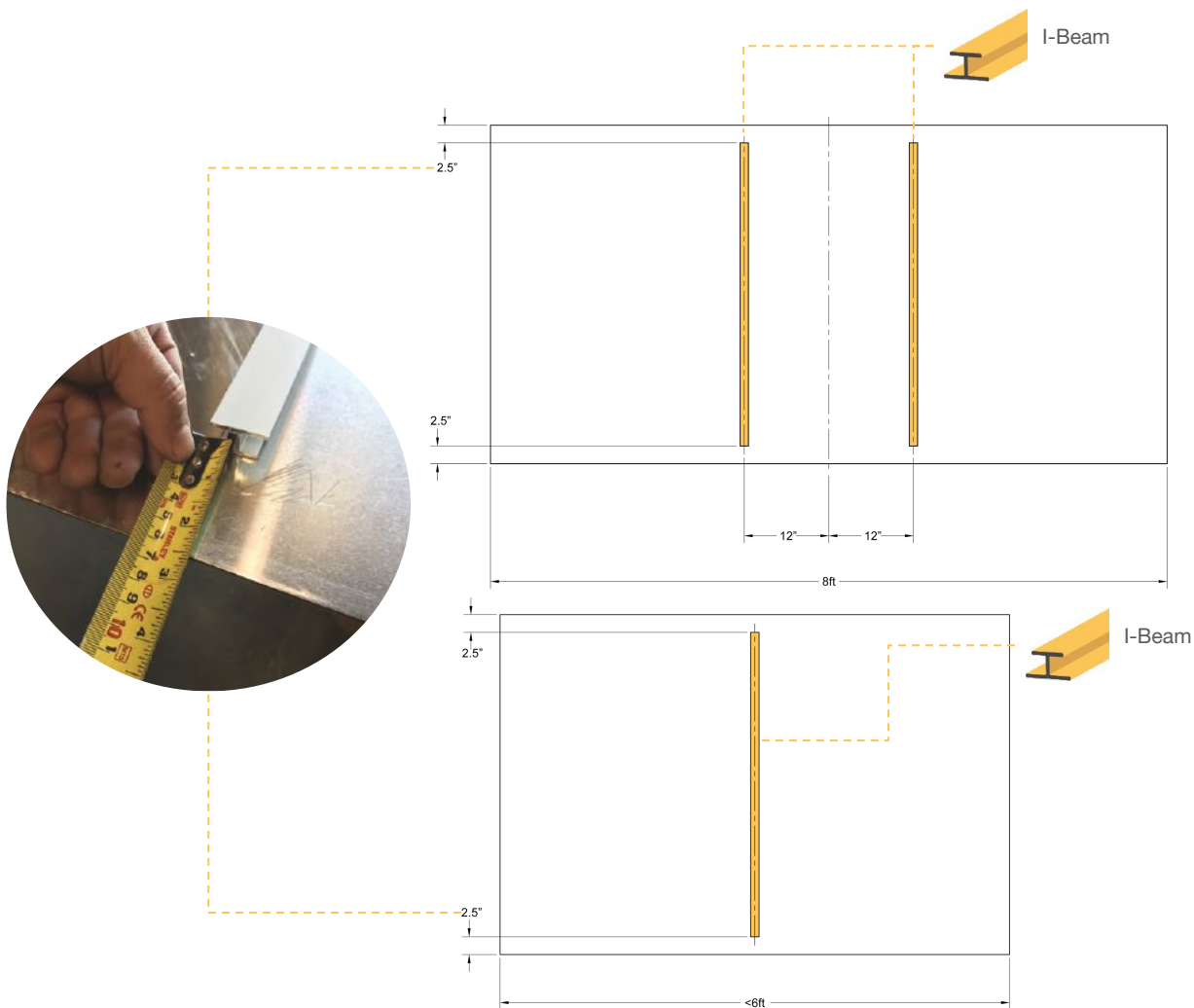
Use a guide to ensure cuts are straight and clean. The appropriate panel fit should account for approximately a 1/16" gap on all sides to allow for expansion and contraction of the metal.

Gloves should be worn to keep the panel clean and to protect hands from sharp edges.



## Panel Install 10

I-Beam installation (optional). I-beams may be used in conjunction with the panels to provide additional panel rigidity.



### Step 1 - Cut I-beams to fit.

Appropriate sizing should be offset from either edge of the panel 2 1/2". Full 4 ft x 8 ft panels will require 2 I-beams set back 12" from the centre. Panels 6' or below only require 1 I-beam, running in the narrow direction, at the center of the panel.

### Step 2 - Ensure both of the surfaces

are free of dirt, debris or contaminants to ensure full adhesion. For best performance it is suggested to clean both surfaces using Isopropyl Alcohol, which is free of solvents and will not damage any finished surfaces.

### Step 3 - Apply double-sided adhesive

the full length of the narrow leg of the I-beam. Remove the protective backing and carefully attach to the cleaned back side of the panel. Once set in position, apply pressure along the length of the I-beam to ensure even full contact with the back side of the panel.

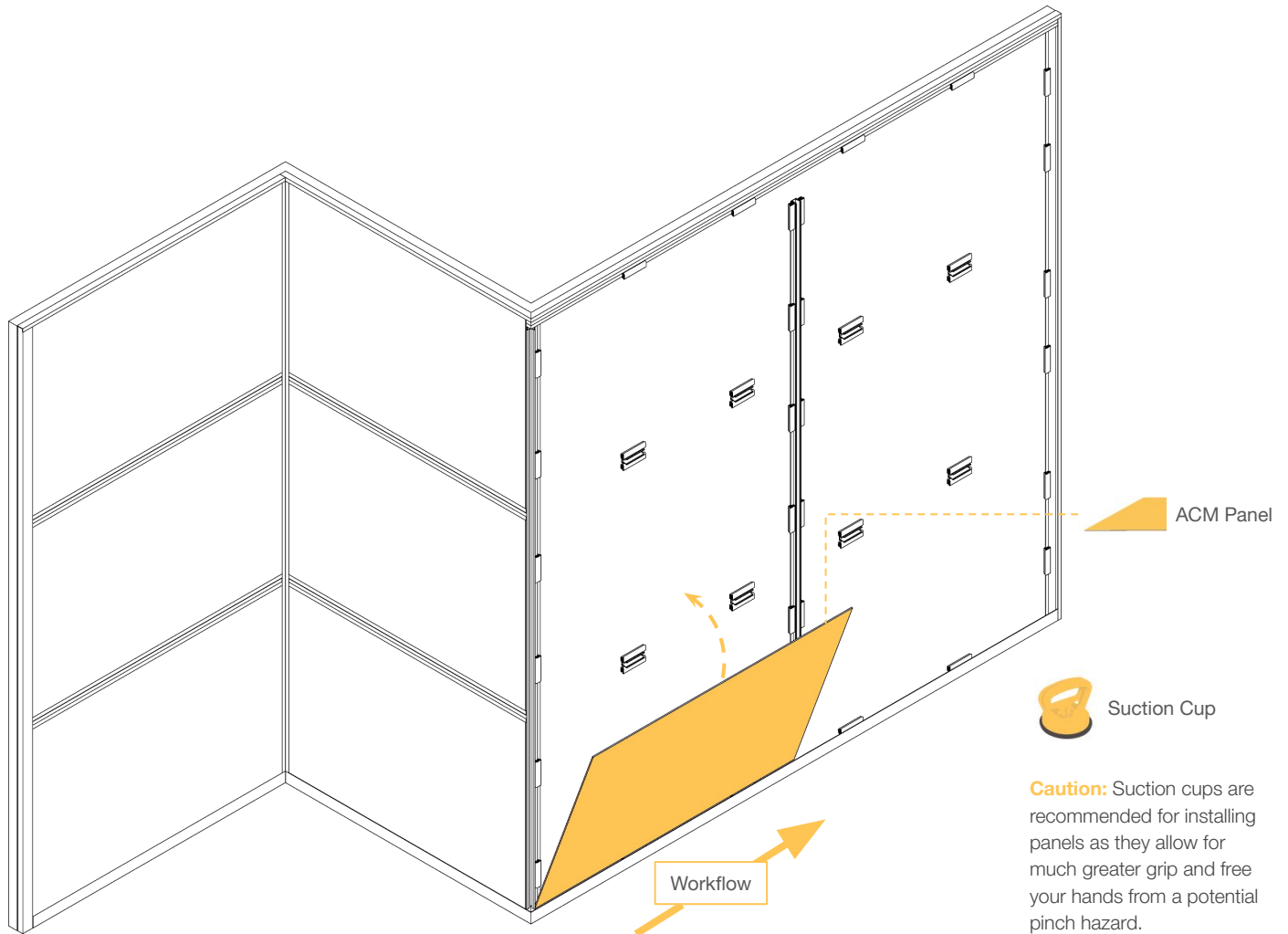
# 02

## Panel Install 11

AL13 How-To



ACM panel fit.



**Step 1** - position panel on its long edge, lift it up and place in position.

**Step 2** - shift the panel towards the wall.

**Step 3** - once the panel is flush, slide it under the tab of the vertical End Frame.

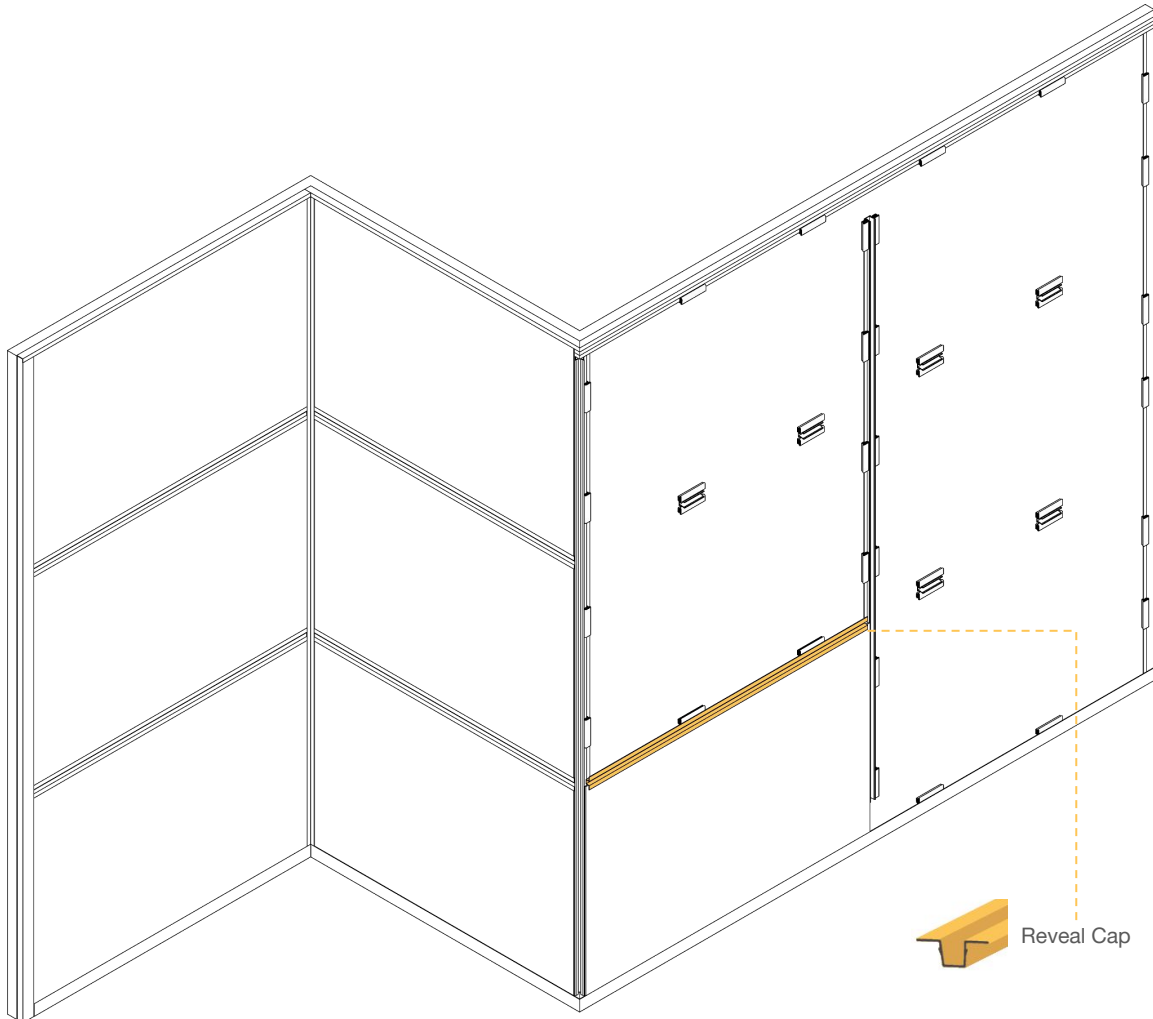


# 02



## Panel Install 12

Install reveal cap and lock into place with AL13® SLED tool.



After the ACM Panel has been shifted into the correct position you must securely fasten it in place with a top cap. The top cap is the second part of the two-part Panel Frame Assembly which is snapped into place with a rubber mallet and the AL13® SLED.

Once the top cap is cut to the appropriate length, it may be engaged with a rubber mallet and the AL13® SLED. Where a horizontal top cap intersects a vertical End Frame, it should slide under the tab of the End Frame. Be cautious to only impact the top cap where a back plate is present to prevent any deformation of the frame components.

The horizontal top cap should sit halfway under the tabs of the vertical frame components, in the same manner as the panel. Therefore, the horizontal top cap may be cut and positioned to match the panel.

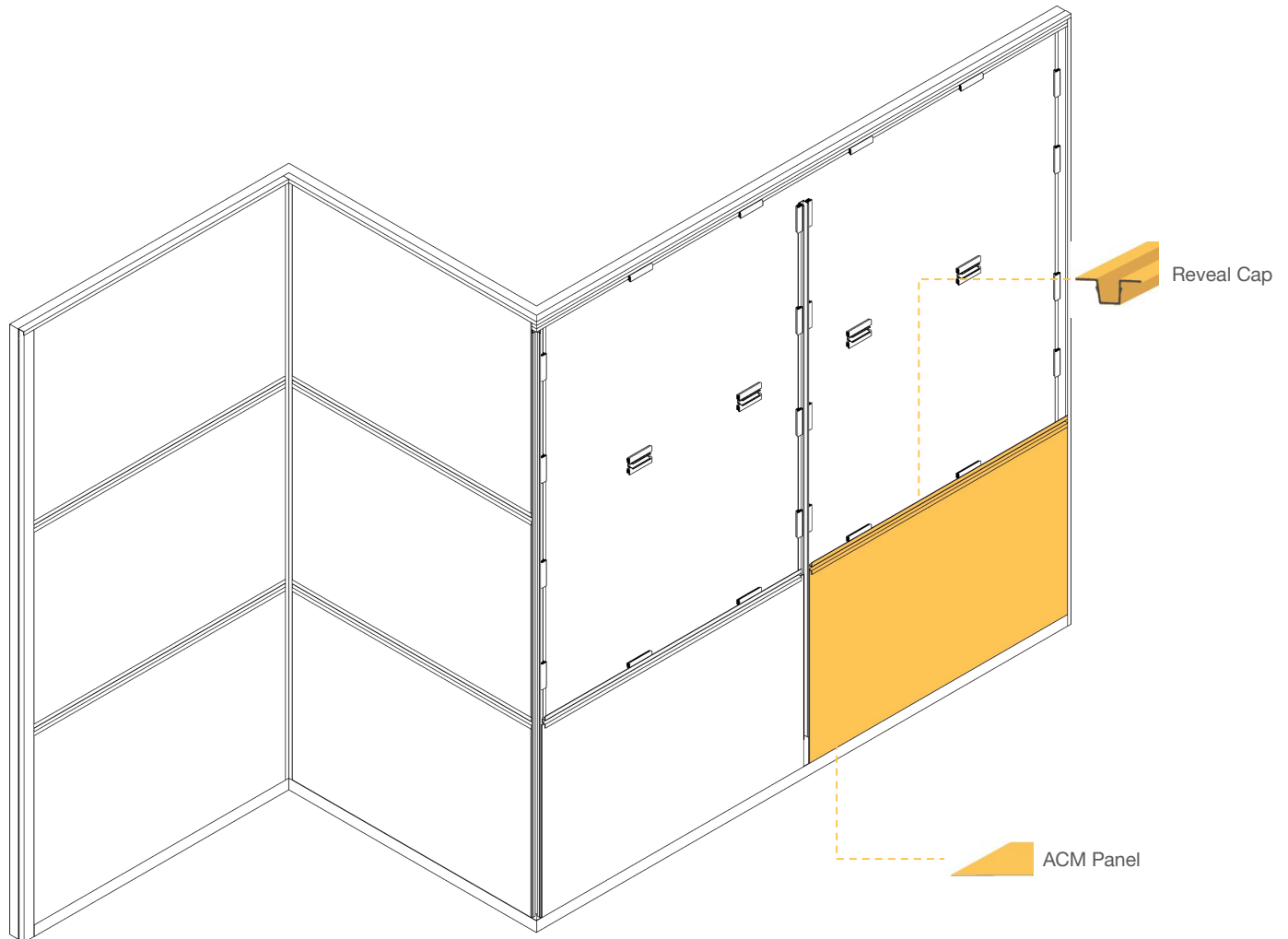
# 02

AL13 How-To



## Panel Install 13

Repeat previous two steps for the next panel.

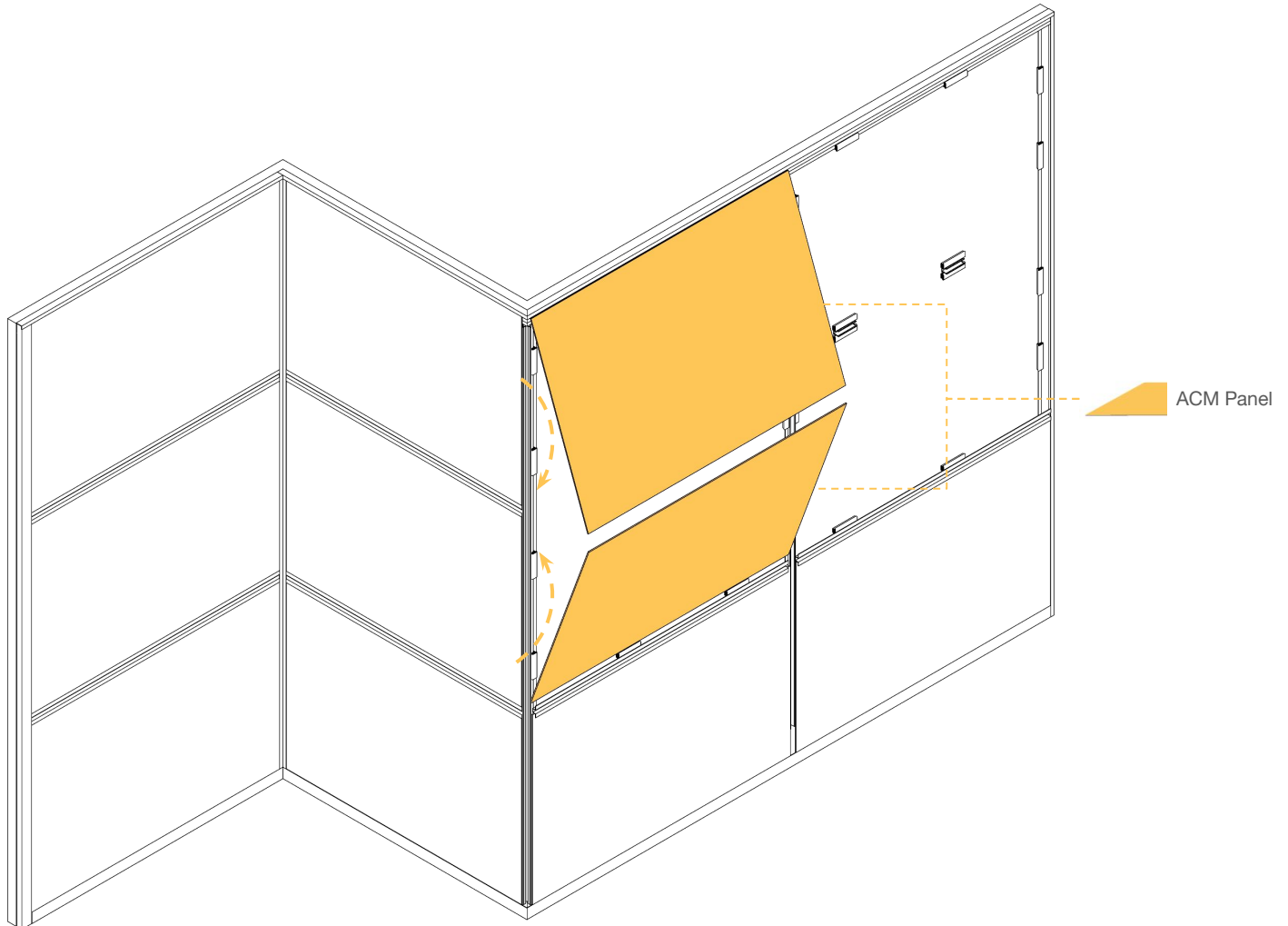


Continue workflow to the right and repeat previous steps for remaining panels on the first row of the wall.



## Panel Install 14

Install top two panels..



The top two panels in a column must be installed simultaneously. Since the top of the wall terminates under the horizontal End Frame, it would be impossible to place the upper panel if the below top cap was already secured.

**Step 1** - Install lower panel and hold in place while second panel is fitted.

**Step 2** - Slide upper panel upwards under the tab of the horizontal End Frame.

**Step 3** - Slide the panel underneath the vertical End Frame.

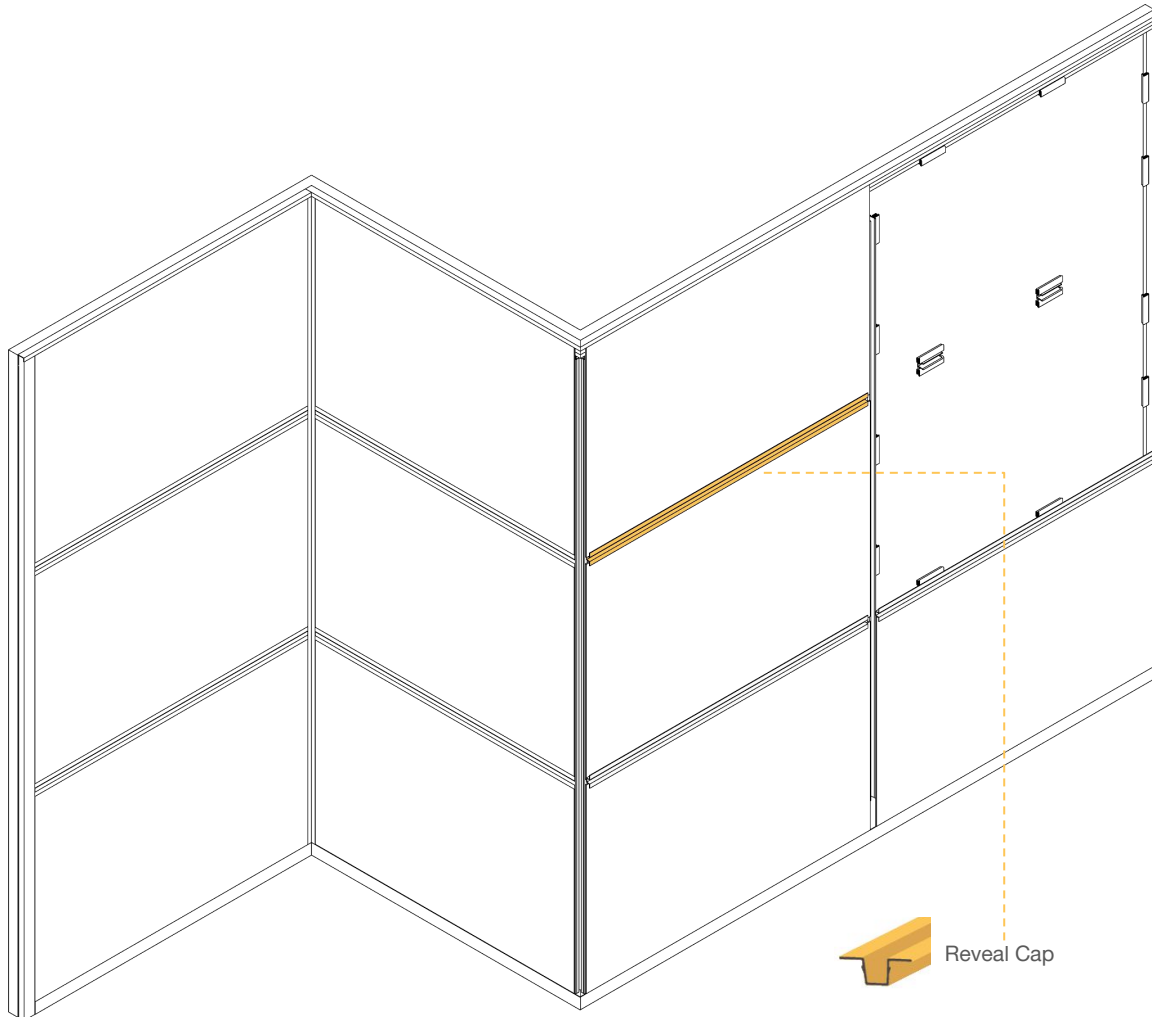
# 02

AL13 How-To



## Panel Install 15

Lock top panels into place with top cap.



After the ACM Panels have been shifted into the correct position, the horizontal top cap will secure the panels in place. Once the top cap is cut to the appropriate length, it should be placed, one end first, into place, with each end under the tabs of the horizontal End Frames.

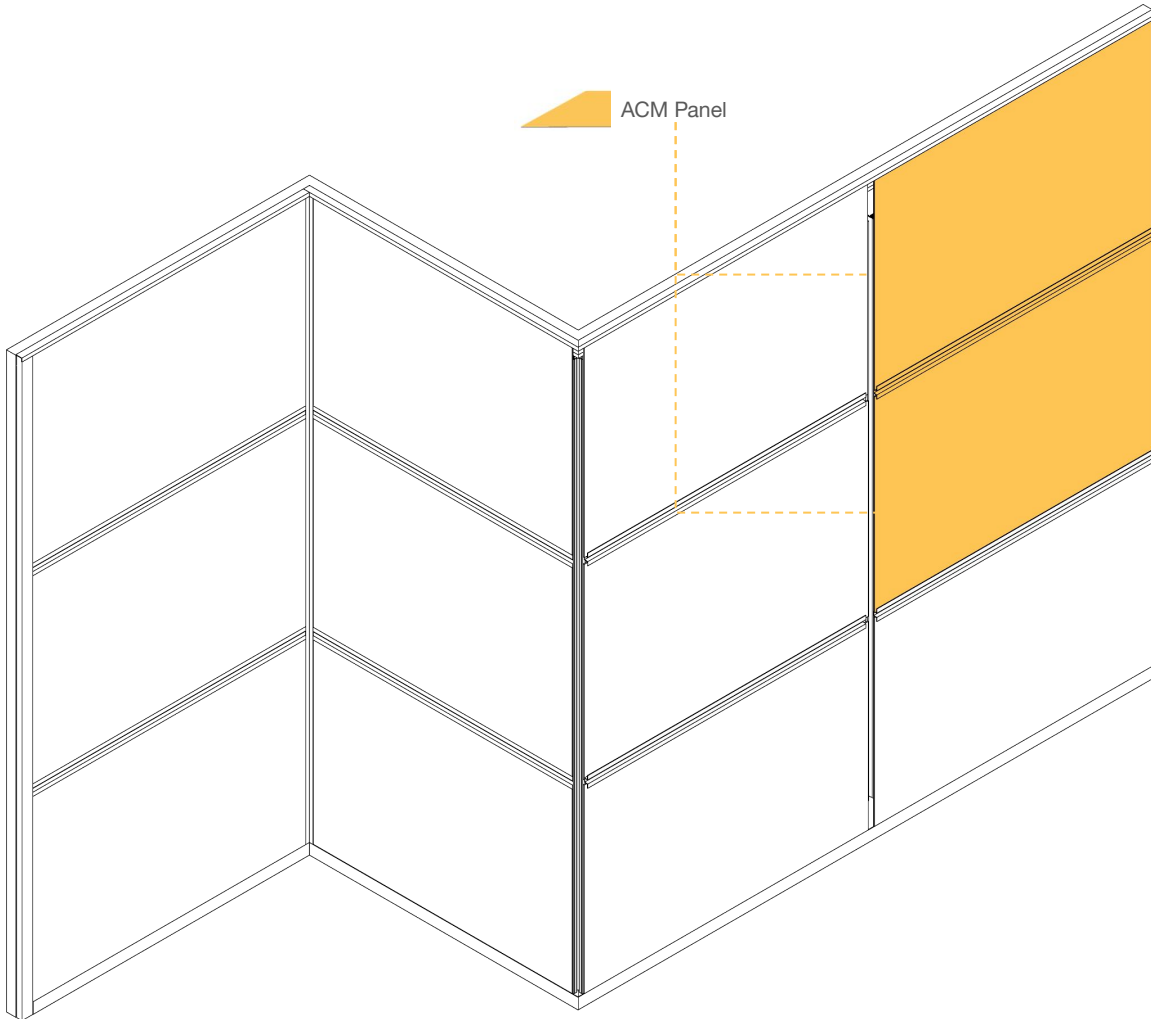
Once in the correct position it is to be hammered into place with a rubber mallet and AL13® SLED.

# 02



## Panel Install 16

Repeat for the other side and lock into place.



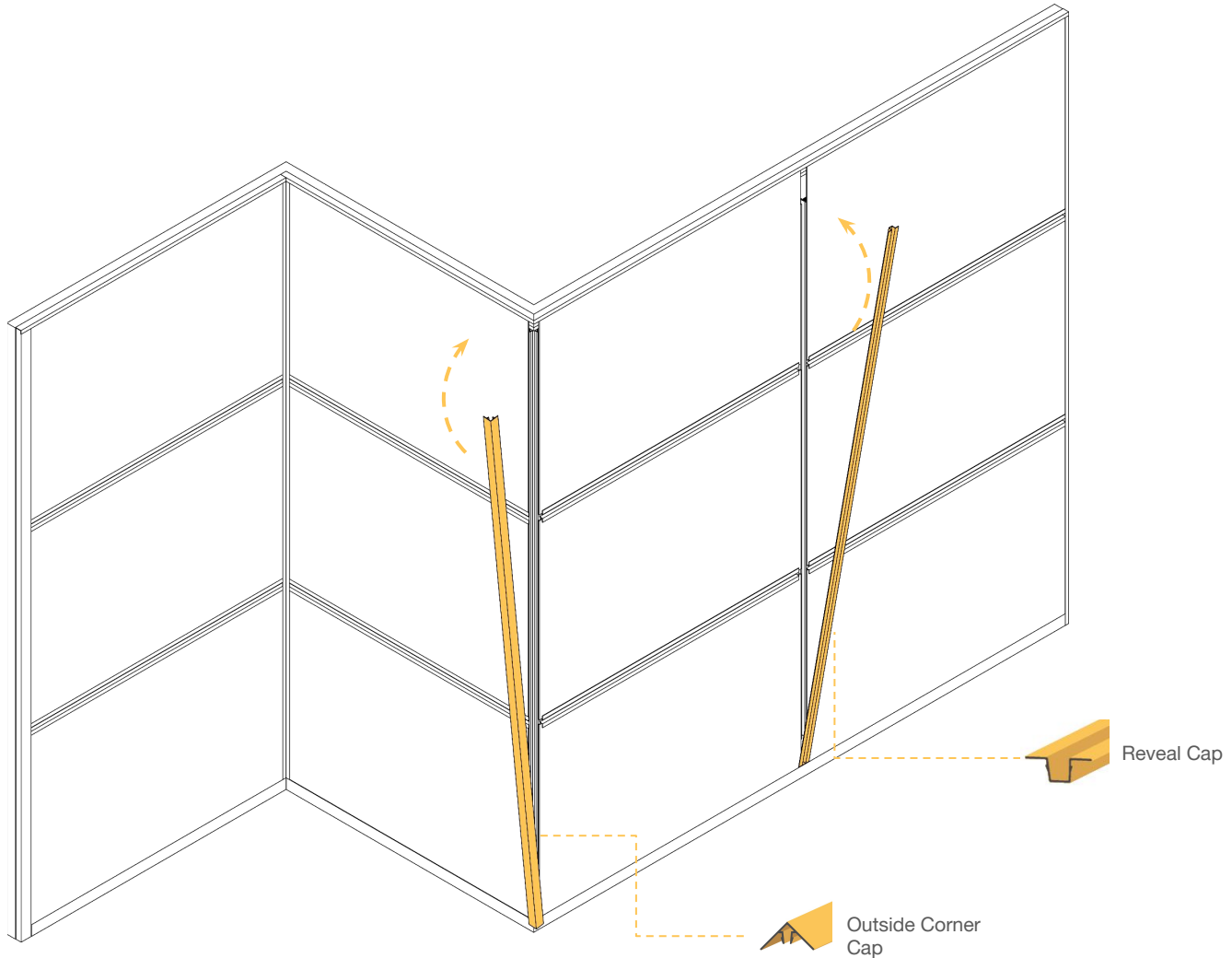
Continue workflow to the right and repeat previous steps for remaining panels on the top row.

# 02



## Panel Install 17

Install vertical top cap and lock into place.



Once two adjacent columns of panels have been installed, the top cap may be installed. Once the top cap is cut to the appropriate length, it should be placed, bottom end first, into place with each end under the tabs of the horizontal End Frames. Once in the correct position it is to be hammered into place with a rubber mallet and AL13® SLED.

If one length of the top cap extrusions is not long enough to span the distance required, it is necessary to use a second piece and butt the two together. Take care in aligning buttjoints so that they share the same back plate.



**Note:** Do not butt two top caps at an intersection, where no back plate is present.



**Note:** the Outside Corner Cap needs to be installed with the 2OC SLED and engaged at 45° to the wall.

See the Installation Guideline for further details.

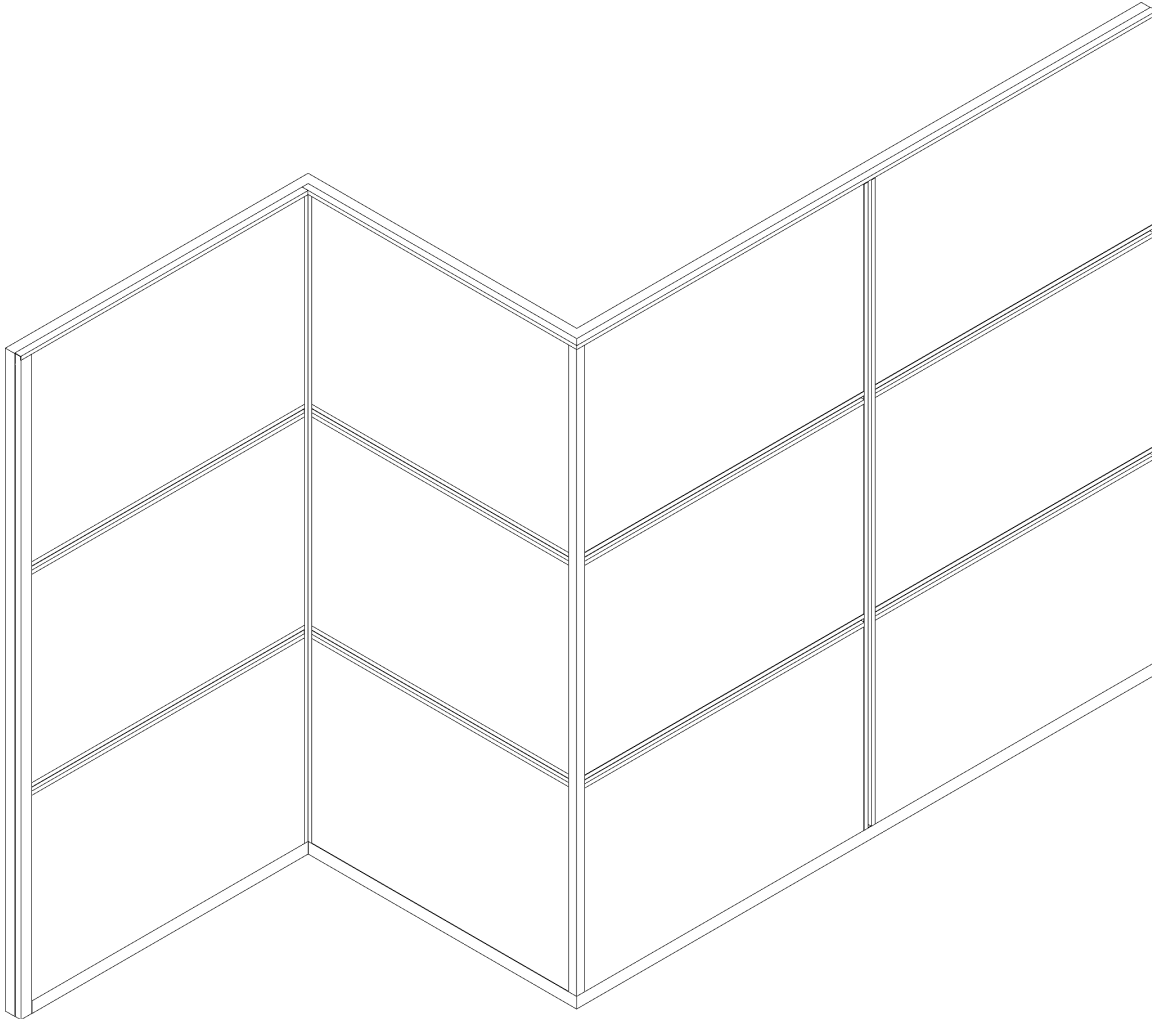
# 02

AL13 How-To



## Panel Install 18

Wall installation is complete.



# 02

## Panel Install 19

AL13 How-To



Finishing and inspection.



ACM Panel Protective  
Plastic Film

Once the install is complete, work from the top down to remove the protective plastic film and clean the panels as required. Take note of any installation flaws and ensure all top caps are fully hammered into place.

**Protective film must be removed  
once install is complete.**