As the name suggests, fixed panel clips are stationary when installed into the roof deck. These types of clips are ideal for short panel runs (less than 20 feet) and snap lock systems. The primary advantage of fixed clips is their reduced cost compared to other options, which may be advantageous to contractors.

There are two main parts that constitute a floating clip, the base and the panel clip. These two components are connected with some leeway to allow, “floating”, or limited movement after installation. Floating clips are most often used in longer panel runs, but are typically more expensive and labor intensive to install.

Mechanically seamed systems require a hand or mechanical seamer to install. The clips are designed and manufactured to specifically line up with the edges of the metal panel used. These systems require additional labor, but can be used in roof designs with steeper slopes.

Snap-lock clips do not require hand or mechanical seaming, and, “snap” into the profiles of metal panels. The primary advantages of this system are reduced labor during installation and viability in a larger number of environments. However, these systems are limited to shallow slope roof designs.