



GYPSUM BOARD WINTER RELATED JOB PROBLEMS (GA-220-94)

These recommendations apply to gypsum board installed on interior walls, partitions and ceilings. For gypsum sheathing recommendations, see *Recommended Specifications for the Application of Gypsum Sheathing*, (GA-253).

Cold and damp weather conditions can contribute to joint compound bond failure, delayed shrinkage, beading, nail popping, joint shadowing and board sagging. Observing the following precautions during periods of cold and damp weather will reduce job problems.

- Gypsum board and joint treatment should not be applied to cold or damp surfaces.
- For installation of gypsum board and finishes, room temperature should be maintained at not less than 40°F (5°C) for mechanical application of gypsum board and not less than 50°F (10°C) for adhesive application of gypsum board and for joint treatment, texturing and decoration.
- Where materials are being mixed and used for joint treatment or the laminating of one layer of board to another, the temperature of the building should be maintained at not less than 50°F (10°C) for 48 hours before and continuously until applied materials are thoroughly dry.
- When a temporary heat source is used, the temperature should not exceed 95°F (35°C) in any given room or area.
- Ventilation shall be provided to ensure normal drying conditions.
(Note: Temporary heat may cause unusually high humidity conditions.)
- Interior temperatures should be maintained at not less than 50°F (10°C) for not less than 24 hours and the gypsum board should be completely dry before taping and finishing. Subsequent finishing and texturing should not proceed until previous applications are completely dry. Ready-mixed joint compounds and textures shall be protected against freezing in storage.
- Setting type joint compounds can help avoid many cold weather problems.
- A latex primer should be applied and allowed to dry before decorating. This often takes between 36 and 48 hours when weather is cool or damp.
- The proper thicknesses of gypsum board should be used to avoid sagging when ceilings are to be textured.
- Where a vapor retarder is required, it is suggested that foil backed gypsum board or vapor retarder faced mineral or glass fiber insulation blankets be used.
- When a polyethylene vapor retarder film is installed on ceilings behind the gypsum board, it is important to install the batt or blanket ceiling insulation BEFORE the gypsum board; when loose fill insulation is used, install the insulation IMMEDIATELY after the gypsum board.

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