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Technical Information
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Exterior Soffit Gypsum Wallboard

DESCRIPTION

Exterior Soffit wallboard is the ideal surface material for sheltered exterior ceiling applications with indirect exposure to the weather. The panel contains a non-combustible gypsum core with its long edges being tapered, and ends being square-cut and finished smooth.

Exterior Soffit wallboard is available in: 1/2" panels with a non-rated core, 5/8" Type X core for use in fire-rated assemblies, and a 5/8" Type C core (Special Order).



Exterior Soffit gypsum wallboard has attained the GREENGUARD Indoor Air Quality Certified® status and GREENGUARD Children & Schools Indoor Air Quality Certified® status. Products manufactured by American Gypsum contain no asbestos.

BASIC USES

Exterior Soffit wallboard is intended to provide a sag-resistant panel for use in sheltered exterior ceiling applications with indirect exposure to the weather. Commercial uses include marquees, large canopies and covered walkways, open malls, and parking areas. Residential uses include open porches, breezeways, carports, and exterior soffits. The panels are secured directly to wood framing, cross-furring of wood, metal framing or metal furring channels attached to main supports.

With joints covered, Exterior Soffit wallboard will resist the passage of smoke. For additional information on smoke barriers, refer to Gypsum Association publication, "Building and Inspecting Smoke Barriers" (GA-618), which can be found at www.americangypsum.com under "Technical Data" - click on Gypsum Association Literature.

LIMITATIONS

Exterior Soffit wallboard must be protected from direct exposure to water.

Suitable fascia and moldings shall be provided around the perimeter to protect Exterior Soffit wallboard from direct exposure to water. Install fascia so that its drip line is at least 1/4" below the Exterior Soffit boards face.

Not to be used in areas with direct exposure to water or continuous high humidity, e.g., saunas, steam rooms, gang showers or indoor swimming pools.

Avoid exposure to temperatures exceeding 125°F (52°C) for extended periods of time, e.g., located adjacent to wood burning stoves and or heating appliances.

Avoid excessive or continuous exposure to moisture during delivery, storage, handling and installation. Eliminate sources of moisture immediately.

Exterior Soffit wallboard is a nonstructural product and should not be used as a nailing base.

Framing must be spaced no more than 16"o/c when using 1/2" Exterior Soffit wallboard and 24"o/c for 5/8" Exterior Soffit.

Exterior Soffit wallboard is designed to be installed in a horizontal plane or inclined downward away from the structure in ceiling applications, but also may be used as a covering on wall surfaces.

STORAGE & HANDLING

Gypsum board does not generate or support the growth of mold when it is properly transported, stored, handled, installed, and maintained. However, mold spores are present everywhere and when conditions are favorable; mold can grow on practically any surface. GYPSUM BOARD MUST BE KEPT DRY to prevent the growth of mold.

Gypsum board must be stored in an area that protects it from adverse weather conditions, condensation, and other forms of moisture. Job site conditions that can expose gypsum board to water or moisture must be avoided.

Gypsum board must be protected during transit with a weather-tight cover in good condition. Plastic shipping bags are intended to provide protection during transit only and must be promptly removed upon arrival of the load. Failure to remove the shipping bag can increase the likelihood of developing conditions favorable to the growth of mold.

Gypsum board that has visible mold growth must not be used. For additional information, refer to Gypsum Association publication, "Guidelines for the Prevention of Mold Growth on Gypsum Wallboard" (GA-238), which can be found at www.americangypsum.com under "Technical Information" - click on Gypsum Association Literature.

Gypsum board must be stored off the ground and under protective cover. Sufficient risers must be used to assure support for the entire length of the wallboard to prevent sagging.

Gypsum board must be delivered to the job site as near to the time it will be used as possible. Individuals delivering gypsum board to jobsites should ensure that it is carried, not dragged, to place of storage/installation to prevent damage to finished edges.

Gypsum board shall always be stacked flat - NEVER on edge or end. Gypsum board stacked on edge or end is unstable and presents a serious hazard should it accidentally topple. Gypsum board should be placed so weight is evenly distributed and the floor is not overloaded.

GOOD BUILDING PRACTICES

Installation - Installation of Exterior Soffit wallboard shall be consistent with methods described in the noted standards and references indicated below.

The design professional has the ultimate responsibility for location of control joints.

Fasten Exterior Soffit wallboard to wood framing members with either Type W 1 1/4" screws spaced 12"o/c or 1 1/2" nails spaced 7"o/c. For metal framing use Type S 1 1/4" screws, spaced 12"o/c.

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Ventilation - Where the area above Exterior Soffit wallboard opens to an attic space over habitable rooms, the space should be vented to the outside in accordance with local building codes (typically 1 sf of venting for every 150 sf of Exterior Soffit wallboard). Where Exterior Soffit wallboard is applied directly to rafters or to roof-ceiling joists that extend beyond habitable rooms (as in flat roof construction), vents are required at each end of each rafter or joist space.

Joint Treatment – A fast setting joint compound is recommended for filling, taping and finishing of Exterior Soffit wallboard.

Decoration – The design professional, contractor and or owner shall review Gypsum Association's bulletin GA-214, "Recommended Levels of Gypsum Board Finish", in order to specify the proper level of drywall finishing needed to assure the desired results. (GA-214 can be found at www.americangypsum.com under "Technical Data" - click on Gypsum Association Literature)

The exposed areas of Exterior Soffit wallboard shall be sealed with a full-bodied exterior primer and then finished with a coat of exterior paint. Install in accordance with the paint manufactures instructions.

APPLICABLE STANDARDS

Manufacturing	ASTM C 1396 section 8 (C 931) Federal Specification - None
Installation	ASTM C 840 Gypsum Association GA-216
Surface Burning Characteristics	ASTM E 84 Flame Spread 15 Smoke Developed 0

PRODUCT DATA

SIZES

Thickness	Widths	Lengths	Edge Type	UL Type
1/2" (12.7mm)	4' (1219mm)	8' and 12' (2438mm & 3658mm)	Tapered	
5/8" Type X (15.9mm)	4' (1219mm)	8' - 12' (2438mm - 3658m)	Tapered	AGX-1, AGX-11
5/8" Type C (15.9mm) SPECIAL ORDER	4' (1219mm)	12' (3658mm)	Tapered	AG-C

Special lengths or edges may be available on special order. Consult your American Gypsum sales representative for details.

Thermal Resistance "R" Value	1/2" = 0.50 5/8" = 0.61
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FIRE RESISTANCE RATINGS

Fire rated assemblies are specified from tests performed by independent laboratories. These designs are made up of specific materials in a precise configuration. When choosing construction designs to meet certain fire resistance requirements, vigilance must be taken to insure that each component of the selected assembly is the one specified in the test and are assembled in accordance with the requirements of the assembly.

SUBMITTAL APPROVALS

Job Name: _____

Contractor: _____ Date: _____