

## **GA-238-2019**

### **GUIDELINES FOR PREVENTION OF MOLD GROWTH ON GYPSUM BOARD**

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. Observation of these guidelines will help minimize the potential for mold growth on gypsum board. **GYPSUM BOARD MUST BE KEPT DRY** to prevent the growth of mold.

#### **TRANSPORTATION AND RECEIVING**

- 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 a shipping bag may result in condensation forming in the bag, which can increase the likelihood of the development of conditions favorable to mold growth.
- Gypsum board must be delivered to the job site as near to the time it will be used as possible.

#### **STORAGE AND HANDLING**

- Gypsum board shall be properly supported on risers on a level platform and fully protected from weather, direct sunlight exposure, and condensation.
- Job-site conditions that can expose gypsum board to water or moisture must be avoided.

#### **APPLICATION**

- Provisions must be made to keep gypsum board dry throughout application.
- Gypsum board that has visible mold growth must not be used. Gypsum board on walls must be applied with a minimum ¼ in. (6 mm) gap between the gypsum board and the floor.
- Gypsum board must not be applied over wet building materials, which can create conditions that are favorable to mold growth.

#### **MAINTENANCE FOLLOWING APPLICATION**

- Essential elements of a sound weather-tight building envelope—such as the roof, sealants, windows, and so on—must be periodically inspected and maintained.
- Immediate and appropriate remediation measures must be taken as soon as water leaks or condensation sources are identified.
- Routine cleaning and maintenance must be performed in a manner that will prevent saturation of the gypsum board.

**ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

The following websites provide information and recommendations for treating mold growth; other websites also provide similar suggestions.

*Federal Emergency Management Agency at:*

[http://fema.gov/pdf/rebuild/recover/fema\\_mold\\_brochure\\_english.pdf](http://fema.gov/pdf/rebuild/recover/fema_mold_brochure_english.pdf)

*New York City Department of Health at:* <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/mold.page>

*U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at:* <https://www.epa.gov/mold>

**NOTES:****GYPSUM ASSOCIATION MEMBER COMPANY LIST 2019**

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