

Submittal 09 29 00



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Technical Information
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WITH MOLD & MOISTURE RESISTANCE

DESCRIPTION

M-Bloc® gypsum panels were developed as an improved mold and moisture resistant wallboard with a fire resistant core encased in a mold and moisture resistant blue face paper and brown back paper manufactured from 100% recycled paper. At an independent laboratory accredited in accordance with ISO 17025-2005, M-Bloc panels have been tested to the industry's most rigorous standard achieving the best possible results per ASTM D 3273 scoring a perfect 10, thus minimizing the risk of mold and mildew growth.

American Gypsum products contain no asbestos and no detectable levels of formaldehyde.

GREENGUARD CERTIFIED FROM UL ENVIRONMENT

M-Bloc gypsum panels have achieved UL Environment's GREENGUARD GOLD Certification. GREENGUARD Certified products are scientifically proven to meet some of the world's most rigorous, third-party chemical emissions standards, helping reduce indoor air pollution and the risk of chemical exposure while aiding in the creation of healthier indoor environments. For more information, visit www.ul.com/gg.

BASIC USES

M-Bloc gypsum panels are a lightweight cost efficient interior wall or ceiling panel for use throughout a project as well as the adhesive application of ceramic or plastic tile in limited wet areas, e.g., bathrooms, kitchens, laundry, and utility rooms. M-Bloc gypsum panels are also approved for exterior soffits and/or sidewalls in protected corridors/breezeways with indirect exposure to the weather. With joints covered, M-Bloc interior gypsum panels will resist the passage of smoke. For additional information on smoke barriers, refer to Gypsum Association publication, "Building and Inspecting Smoke Barriers" (GA-618).

LIMITATIONS

The use of M-Bloc panels in actual jobsite conditions may not produce the same mold resistant results as were achieved in a controlled laboratory setting. While no material can or should be considered mold proof, the use of good design and construction practices is the most effective strategy to manage the growth of mold and mildew.

- M-Bloc gypsum wallboard is a nonstructural panel and should not be used as a nailing base.
- Avoid exposure to temperatures exceeding 125°F (52°C) for extended periods of time.
- Resilient channels are not recommended where tile or similar finish is to be applied to the panel.
- Not to be used in areas with direct exposure to water or continuous high humidity, e.g., tiled tub and shower surrounds, saunas, steam rooms, gang showers or indoor swimming pools.
- M-Bloc gypsum wallboard that is to receive tile or other surfacing which may act as a vapor retarder shall not have a vapor retarder placed behind the panel. A single layer of asphalt impregnated felt, #15 or less, applied as part of the wall system, shall not be considered a vapor retarder.
- On wall applications, maintain a gap of 1/4" between the bottom edges or ends of the panels and floors, or any other horizontal surface where water could accumulate.
- A fast setting joint compound is recommended for filling, taping and finishing of M-Bloc gypsum wallboard used for exterior soffits and/or sidewalls in protected corridors/breezeways with indirect exposure to the weather.
- When used in exterior ceiling applications, install fascia so that its drip line is at least 1/4" below the face of the panel.

MAXIMUM SPACING OF FRAMING (WOOD OR METAL)			
	SINGLE PLY THICKNESS	APPLICATION	MAXIMUM FRAMING O/C SPACING
*CEILINGS	1/2"	Parallel to Framing	16" o/c
	1/2"	Perpendicular to Framing	24" o/c
WALLS	1/2"	Parallel or Perpendicular to Framing	24" o/c

*For Ceiling Applications - When using a hand or water-based texture for decoration, 1/2" M-Bloc gypsum wallboard is to be installed perpendicular to framing spaced no more than 16" o/c. For framing spaced more than 16" o/c, American Gypsum's 1/2" Ceiling Board shall be specified.

FRAMING	PRODUCT	PSF (LBS. PER S/F) OF INSULATION
24" o/c	1/2" M-Bloc Interior Gypsum Panel	1.3 (6.3 kg/M ²)
16" o/c	1/2" M-Bloc Interior Gypsum Panel	2.2 (10.7 kg/M ²)

Insulation blankets or batts should be recessed, with flanges attached or friction fitted to the sides of the studs or joists.

STORAGE AND 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.

STORAGE AND HANDLING “continued”

Gypsum board should not be exposed to elevated levels of moisture for extended periods. Examples of elevated levels of moisture include, but are not limited to, exposure to rain, condensation, water leakage, and standing water. Some board exposed to these conditions may not need to be replaced, depending upon the source of the moisture and the condition of the gypsum board being considered for replacement.

When gypsum board is exposed to elevated levels of moisture, an assessment of the potential damage to the gypsum board must be made by the contractor/design professional/owner as to whether board exposed to these conditions must be replaced. Gypsum wallboard may experience limited intermittent exposure to moisture from a variety of sources, such as improper storage, construction or design defects, water leaks, etc. Gypsum board exposed to water should be replaced unless all of the following conditions are met.

1. The source of the water or moisture is identified and eliminated.
2. The water or moisture to which the gypsum board was exposed was uncontaminated.
3. The gypsum board can be dried thoroughly before mold growth begins (typically 24 to 48 hours depending on environmental conditions).
4. The gypsum board is structurally sound and there is no evidence of rusting fasteners or physical damage that would diminish the physical properties of the gypsum board or system.

Below are the general recommendations for drying out gypsum wallboard once exposed to moisture:

- The source of water or moisture must be eliminated.
- Adequate ventilation, air circulation, and drying are essential to minimize the potential for mold or other fungal growth. Fans should be used to increase air movement.
- The interior of the building must be thoroughly dried immediately.
- The indoor humidity can be lowered by using fans and portable dehumidification equipment and by opening up the building when the outside air is drier than the air inside the structure.
- Damaged gypsum board and other wet materials that are to be replaced must be removed from the building to facilitate drying.
- Closets, cabinets, and doors between rooms should be opened to enhance circulation of air.
- For more detailed information, a water damage restoration specialist should be contacted.

IMPORTANT - IF THERE IS EVER A DOUBT ABOUT WHETHER TO KEEP OR REPLACE GYPSUM BOARD THAT HAS BEEN EXPOSED TO MOISTURE - REPLACE IT.

CAUTION: When replacing gypsum board in a fire resistance or sound rated systems, care must be taken to ensure that all repairs are consistent with the specific fire or sound rated design initially constructed (gypsum board type, fasteners and their spacing, and staggered joints).

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 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 the 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 – M-Bloc shall be installed in accordance with the recent editions of “Application and Finishing of Gypsum Panel Products” (GA-216) and “Standard Specification for Application and Finishing of Gypsum Board” (ASTM C 840). The building temperature shall be maintained at not less than 50°F (10°C) for adhesive application of gypsum board, during joint treatment, texturing, and decoration. When a temporary heat source is used the temperature shall not be more than 95°F (35°C) in any given room or area. Adequate and continuous ventilation shall be provided in the working area during the installation and the drying or curing period.

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

Decoration - The design professional, contractor and or owner shall review “Recommended Levels of Gypsum Board Finish” (GA-214), in order to specify the proper level of drywall finishing needed to assure the desired results. For best painting results, all surfaces, including joint compound, should be clean, dust-free and not glossy. To equalize the porosities between the face paper and joint compound and improve fastener and joint concealment, the surface shall be primed and sealed with a full-bodied high solids drywall primer before texturing or final decoration. The selection of the proper paint to give the specified or desired finished characteristics is the responsibility of the design professional, contractor and or owner.

APPLICABLE STANDARDS	Mold Resistance	Score of 10 (ASTM D 3273)
	Manufacturing	ASTM C 1396 Federal Specification – SS-L-30D Type III
	Installation	ASTM C 840 Gypsum Association GA-216 Gypsum Association GA-214
	Surface Burning Characteristics	ASTM E 84 Flame Spread 0 Smoke Developed 0

PRODUCT DATA	Thickness	Widths	Lengths	Edge Type
	1/2" (12.7mm)	4' (1219mm)	8' - 12' (2438mm - 3658mm)	Tapered

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

SUBMITTAL APPROVALS

Job Name: _____

Contractor: _____ **Date:** _____