



As Hurricane Recovery Efforts Continue, Gypsum Association Draws Attention to Technical Resources

To assist with post-hurricane rebuilding efforts, the Gypsum Association has placed all relevant technical documents on a single, easy to locate webpage, along with answers to frequently asked questions associated with gypsum board (AKA drywall or wallboard) repair and replacement after water damage.

These technical resources lay out proper methods of handling and storage and repair and replacement of gypsum board. As always, consumers, building professionals, code officials, inspectors, and building product distributors can access these technical resources online and free of charge.

Technical documents essential to appropriate repair of flood damaged properties are:

- GA-231-2015 *Assessing Water Damage to Gypsum Board*
- GA-235-2017 *Gypsum Board Typical Mechanical and Physical Properties*
- GA-238-2016 *Guidelines for Prevention of Mold Growth on Gypsum Board*
- GA-801-2017 *Handling and Storage of Gypsum Panel Products*
- GA-1000-2017 *Identification of Gypsum Board*

The Gypsum Association's members comprise all the active gypsum panel product manufacturers in the United States and Canada. To be eligible for membership, a firm or corporation must calcine gypsum and manufacture gypsum board under the provisions of ASTM C1396 *Standard Specification for Gypsum Board*. Only panels made to this high standard are code compliant in the United States. This standard also mandates that each panel is labelled legibly on the back surface of each board, parallel to the bound edge of the board. GA-1000-2017 *Identification of Gypsum Board* provides important information related to ensuring gypsum panels are compliant with ASTM C1396.

The Gypsum Association also provides technical assistance by phone or email. Technical representatives cannot offer site specific prescriptions. Only a knowledgeable building professional who can evaluate an impacted site in person can offer a set of specific remediation actions. However, Gypsum Association representatives are able to point consumers, building professionals, and inspectors to legitimate technical standards and best practices that address their concerns.

GA Website Shows How Specialized Performance Panels Enhance Family Homes

The Gypsum Association (GA) has augmented its web-based application devoted to specialized performance gypsum panel products by adding a new section devoted to single-family homes. Now covering residential as well as commercial and multifamily structures, these 2017 additions to the GA website are aimed at providing essential—yet impartial—information about products with features such as additional fire-resistance, increased surface durability, extended weatherability, and an ever-widening list of application-specific, specialty performance characteristics.

Although gypsum wallboard has dominated interior wall construction for more than half a century, this cost-efficient, easy-to-install building material has experienced continuous development and enhancement. The performance panels highlighted on gypsum.org are manufactured by all GA member companies and include exterior gypsum sheathing, abuse resistant and impact resistant gypsum panels, mold and moisture resistant panels, and 5/8th-inch type X wallboard.

Currently, special performance gypsum panels are more commonly used by commercial and multifamily developers and builders. However, the same characteristics that make these cost-efficient, easy-to-install building products an obvious choice in the

multifamily sector will provided added value to builders and homeowners interested in quality construction that can withstand the wear and tear of active family living. Already many builders exclusively rely on type X wallboard, one of the first specialized performance products produced by the gypsum industry, for its added fire resistance and contribution to sound control assemblies.

The residential section shows performance panel types illustrated in situ, with physical description, advantages, and limitations noted. Answers to frequently asked questions are supplied for each performance board. Citations and links to all pertinent ASTM standards and GA technical and code referenced documents are provided. In addition, a section on the basics of sound control addresses an often longed for quality in single family homes—peace and quiet. The acoustics section emphasizes system solutions to sound attenuation.

Executive Director Stephen H. Meima, APR, LEED Green Assoc. notes, “Compared to traditional drywall, specialized performance gypsum panels are relatively new. Educating consumers, residential architects and homebuilders about these multi-attribute performance products is an important contribution to both the design and construction value chain and to quality of life.”



Gypsum Association Welcomes Technical Services Specialist Greg Woolley



The Gypsum Association (GA) is pleased to announce that Greg M. Woolley has joined the staff as technical services specialist. Greg has more than 15 years of experience in building products and building product services, most recently at Bluegrass Materials (formerly Lafarge North America) where he served as territory manager to ready mix concrete producers in Maryland.

Prior to Bluegrass, Greg held commercial account management roles at Allied Building Products, Cassady Pierce Company and The Home Depot, providing consultative services to architects and contractors on building materials. Greg also owned a custom carpentry firm with a focus on historic homes in the Baltimore area.

In this new role, Greg's priorities will be addressing technical questions received via phone and email, playing an integral role in publications development, and contributing to gypsum industry representation within technical and consensus organizations.

"Greg's considerable building industry background makes him an ideal fit for this new, key role, which will further reinforce the GA's technical capabilities," said Executive Director Stephen H. Meima.

A graduate of New York University, Greg lives with his family in Baltimore where he serves on the board of the Mount Washington Improvement Association. Greg can be reached at 301-277-8681 or email gwoolley@gypsum.org

Tech Question

The following questions are among the frequently asked questions on the GA's technical resources webpage devoted to hurricane recovery efforts.

Q) How do I prevent mold growth on gypsum panels?

A) Gypsum board must be kept dry at all times to prevent the growth of mold. Review publication GA-238-2016 *Guidelines For Prevention of Mold Growth on Gypsum Board*. This quick reference publication will note transportation, storage, handling, application, and maintenance guidelines.

Q) How do I know whether or not to replace gypsum board after it has been submerged in a flood?

A) You will want to reference GA-231-15 *Assessing Water Damage To Gypsum Board*. Most notably, gypsum board that has been exposed to sewage or flood waters must be replaced. The levels of bacteria, such as E. coli, can be hundreds of times above safe levels in flood water. Also, hydrocarbons from underground gas storage tanks and fuel leaks from submerged vehicles can be present. Often, the board will need to be removed anyway to assess the underlying substructure.

Eleven Gypsum Association Documents Revised and Released

The Gypsum Association (GA) announces the revision of 11 technical documents pertaining to the application, finishing, handling, and storage of gypsum panel products. Since December 2016, more than half of the GA's extensive catalogue of free technical guidance documents have been updated to reflect the most current recommendations of technical experts within the

gypsum industry. Documents recently posted to the free download section of the GA Bookstore are:

- GA-214 *Quick Reference Guide*
- GA-221-2017 *Causes, Prevention and Repair of Joint Ridging and Centerline Cracking*

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- GA-223-2017 *Gypsum Panel Products Types, Uses, Sizes, and Standards*
- GA-227-2017 *Recommendations for the Prevention of Ceiling Cracking*
- GA-235-2017 *Gypsum Board Typical Mechanical and Physical Properties*
- GA-236-2017 *Joint Treatment Under Extreme Weather Conditions*
- GA-253-2018 *Application of Gypsum Sheathing*
- GA-254-2017 *Fire-Resistant Gypsum Sheathing*
- GA-618-2017 *Building and Inspecting Smoke Barriers*
- GA-801-2017 *Handling and Storage of Gypsum Panel Products*
- GA-1000-2017 *Identification of Gypsum Board*

A new Quick Reference Guide to GA-214 *Recommended Levels of Finish for Gypsum Board, Glass Mat and Fiber-Reinforced Gypsum Panels* provides a one-page summary of the longer document. Not a replacement for GA-214, the *Guide* describes each level of finish and when and where they are appropriate. This document aims to better align project specifications and jobsite practices. Like GA-214, this quick reference document was reviewed and approved by the Association of the Wall and Ceiling Industries (AWCI), the Ceilings & Interior Systems Construction Association (CISCA), the Painting

and Decorating Contractors of America (PDCA), and the Drywall Finishing Council (DWFC).

GA-1000-2017 *Identification of Gypsum Board*, and GA-223-2017 *Gypsum Panel Products Types, Uses, Sizes, and Standards* are valuable reference tools because the former is essential to forensic consultants seeking to identify panels in the field, and the latter provides both the ASTM manufacturing standard and the appropriate installation standard for every gypsum panel product. GA-221-2017 *Causes, Prevention and Repair of Joint Ridging and Centerline Cracking* stresses the importance of having all HVAC equipment, tubs, toilets, and roofing in place prior to installation of wallboard. “While this recommendation is not new per se, reports from the field indicate it was often ignored, and resulted in call-backs,” says GA Director of Technical Services Michael Schmeida, MSc, LEED AP. GA-253-2018 *Application of Gypsum Sheathing* has been thoroughly reviewed to ensure this code referenced document supplies appropriate guidance for installation of exterior gypsum sheathing, which is increasingly specified in both commercial and multifamily structures.

“The GA is confident that our documents represent the best impartial technical advice and information the gypsum industry has to offer,” says Executive Director Stephen H. Meima, APR, LEED Green Assoc.

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