



# GYPSUMATION

Supplement to *Construction Dimensions*

APRIL 2009

## Gypsum Association Unveils Sustainability Website

The Gypsum Association has launched a new website that describes the sustainable characteristics of gypsum-based building materials and conveys the commitment of its members to environmentally responsible recycling, waste management, and land reclamation programs.

The nine-section site, titled "Gypsum and Sustainability," offers a brief history of the use of gypsum products dating back to ancient Egypt, describes the chemical composition of natural gypsum ore and discusses the introduction of "synthetic" gypsum as a by-product of the desulfurization of flue gasses in fossil-fueled power plants.

In addition to its use in the manufacture of gypsum panels and building plasters, gypsum has proven to be helpful to humans, animals, plant life and the environment. Six of these applications are identified in the site.

A "Building Green with Gypsum" section addresses "green" building credits awarded for achieving specific compliance targets during the planning, design, build-out, and commissioning stages of a residential or commercial construction or renovation project.

*(Continued on page 3)*



## Inside this issue:

|                                                             |   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| Drywall Finishing Council Joins Levels of Finish Consortium | 2 |
| Gypsum Association Moves Office                             | 2 |
| Technical Hotline                                           | 3 |
| Essentials from the Gypsum Association                      | 4 |

**VISIT THE GYPSUM ASSOCIATION WEBSITE AT [WWW.GYPSUM.ORG](http://WWW.GYPSUM.ORG)**

*We're Your Gypsum Board Information Resource!*

## Gypsum Association Offers New CEU Course - Free

The Gypsum Association has just posted its third free Continuing Education Unit (CEU) course on its website, [www.gypsum.org](http://www.gypsum.org). The course, titled *Application of Gypsum Panel Products*, offers one Health, Safety, and Welfare (HSW) CEU learning unit with the American Institute of Architects (AIA). The new course shows participants how to use Gypsum Association publication GA-216, *Application and Finishing of Gypsum Panel Products*, as a guide for planning and specifying the installation of various gypsum panel products in a variety of building systems, including wood and steel framed partitions, walls, and ceilings.

After completing the course, participants will better understand:

- ☐ The terms and materials defined in GA-216
- ☐ The different methods of applying gypsum panel product
- ☐ The basic environmental conditions for installing gypsum panel products
- ☐ The general requirements for installing gypsum panel products
- ☐ The various fasteners used with gypsum panel products and the requirements for the installation of those fasteners
- ☐ Requirements for special applications of gypsum panel products



This course lays the ground work for the two other CEU courses on the Association's website, a one- HSW learning unit course titled *Understanding the Finishing of Gypsum Panel Products Using GA-216 and GA-214, Recommended Levels of Gypsum Board Finish*, and a two-HSW learning unit course titled *Understanding the GA-600 Fire Resistance Design Manual*. All three courses are available to anyone with internet access free of charge. Upon successful completion, AIA members will receive the applicable CEU credits and all participants will receive a certificate of completion from the Gypsum Association. 

## Drywall Finishing Council Joins Levels of Finish Consortium

In 1988, four major trade associations came together to produce a document that would enable specifiers, contractors, and other interested parties to precisely describe and execute the desired level of finish on gypsum board surfaces prior to the decoration of those surfaces.

Working from language found in ASTM C 840, *Standard Specification for Application and Finish of Gypsum Board*, GA-216, *Recommended Specifications for the Application and Finishing of Gypsum Board*, GA-505, *Glossary of Gypsum Board Terminology*, and the Master Painters Glossary, representatives from the Association of the Wall and Ceiling Industries International, the Ceilings & Interior Systems Construction Association, the Gypsum Association, and the Painting and Decorating Contractors of America published GA-214, *Recommended Specification: Levels of Gypsum Board Finish*, in 1990. The document was revised and published in 1996 as GA-214, *Recommended Levels of Gypsum Board Finish*.



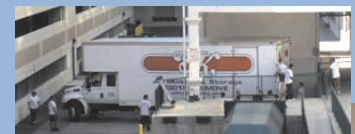
Since the initial publication of GA-214, another important entity has entered the arena of parties contributing to standards, specifications, and practices concerning gypsum board building systems, the Drywall Finishing Council. The Council was formed in 1992 by companies that manufacture products used in the finishing of gypsum board surfaces. Since its inception, the Council has developed and published several documents created for the purpose of improving the quality and standards of the drywall finishing industry. Those documents include: *Recommended Levels of Paint Finish over Gypsum Board*, *Method for Inspecting Interior Joint Treated Gypsum Panel Surfaces*, *Interior Drywall Specifications*, and *Recommended Surface Treatment for Finishing Gypsum Panels to Attain a Level 5 Finish*.

In 2008, the Technical Committee of the Gypsum Association reviewed GA-214 and made recommendations for minor changes to the document for which it would need approval from the other participating organizations before publishing a new edition. At this time, the committee also recommended that the Drywall Finishing Council be invited to join the consortium so that it could review and endorse the proposed changes to GA-214. The other organizations approved the recommended changes and agreed to extending the invitation. In the fall of 2008, the Council accepted the invitation, reviewed and endorsed the changes to GA-214, and now its logo appears on the cover of the most recent edition of the document. 🔥

## Gypsum Association Moves Offices

After almost 20 years in downtown Washington DC, and within sight of the nation's Capitol, the Gypsum Association has relocated its offices a few miles north. The new address for the Association is **6525 Belcrest Road, Suite 480, Hyattsville, Maryland, 20782**. The new location is still within easy driving distance or a short Metro ride to Capitol Hill, but also much closer to the DC Beltway, making it much more accessible by automobile for individuals from outside the metro area.

The Association staff began the painful process of sorting out essential materials from 20 years' accumulation of stuff in September, loaded those materials into orange plastic packing crates, and on Saturday October 4th, watched as a small army of movers transported the crates, office furniture, and every last piece of office equipment from the old location to a shiny, newly renovated office in a mere six hours. 🔥



The section specifically discusses green building credits awarded for:

- ❑ Gypsum products that feature recycled content
- ❑ Gypsum production facilities that are located in close proximity to job sites
- ❑ Use of transportation other than trucking for shipping gypsum products
- ❑ Life Cycle Assessment cost analyses which show that gypsum building systems compare favorably to other building systems
- ❑ Construction waste diversion and on-site waste disposal of gypsum based materials
- ❑ Gypsum-based building components manufactured at new, energy-efficient gypsum board manufacturing plants

Finally, the gypsum “sustainability” website lists reasons why gypsum panels and products are environmentally preferable to other building materials, along with national organizations that have cited gypsum manufacturing facilities in North America for their environmental consciousness and safety programs.

For the complete gypsum sustainability story, visit the “Gypsum and Sustainability” website at [www.gypsumsustainability.org](http://www.gypsumsustainability.org). The new site can also be accessed from the Gypsum Association's recently updated home page at [www.gypsum.org](http://www.gypsum.org). 🔥

## Technical Hotline



**Q:** The building code calls for fire-rated walls to extend up to a fire-rated floor/ceiling assembly. However, with all the electrical, mechanical, and plumbing overhead, this is not always practical, particularly when dealing with the narrow confines of a corridor. Is there any way around this requirement?

**A:** The only real relief from the requirement is found in Section 708.4 of the International Building Code (IBC) and is commonly known as the “corridor lid” rule. The specific language in the IBC allows for a wall to be used as a corridor ceiling when the ceiling is constructed “as required for the corridor walls.”

The lid rule is contained in the section of the IBC that defines requirements for fire partitions; walls that are generally used to create corridors and separate dwelling units in the same building. Fire partitions are required to have a rating of not less than one hour.

Exception 3 modifies this rule when it allows for a circumstance where “...the corridor ceiling is constructed as required for the corridor walls, the walls shall be permitted to terminate at the upper membrane of such ceiling assembly.” While the grammar may be a bit odd, the concept is pretty clear: build a wall over the corridor with a rating the same as the corridor walls, and the walls can terminate at the corridor ceiling.

However, if the concept has not been designed into a set of plans, one should always seek the necessary approval of the project design team and the local building official before proceeding with a modification to an existing design. 🔥

*When you have  
technical questions just  
contact the Gypsum  
Association!*

**Phone: (301) 277-8686**  
**8:30 a.m-5:00 p.m. ET**  
**Fax: (301) 277-8747**  
**Website:**  
**[www.gypsum.org](http://www.gypsum.org)**

# ESSENTIALS

## FROM THE GYPSUM ASSOCIATION

### **FIRE RESISTANCE DESIGN MANUAL GA-600-2006 18th Edition**

Includes fire-resistance ratings for over 370 gypsum protected wall, ceiling, roof, column, beam girder, and truss systems. Over 40 system designs have been added since the previous edition, including several new floor- and roof-ceiling systems and double-stud steel partition designs. Referenced by the International Building Code, Uniform Building Code, and the Building Construction and Safety Code, NFPA 5000. Also referenced in major jurisdictions in the United States such as Florida, Chicago, Los Angeles, and New York City. Recognized in major jurisdictions in Canada. 158 pages.

### **FIRE RESISTANCE DESIGN MANUAL GA-600-2003 17th Edition**

Includes fire-resistance ratings for over 325 gypsum protected wall, ceiling, roof, column, beam, girder, and truss systems. Allows the user to quickly and easily determine essential characteristics of a wide range of fire-resistive gypsum systems classified according to use and fire resistance. STC and IIC ratings for numerous systems are included. Also includes: 2-hour wood- and steel-frame floor/ceiling systems; new wood I-joist floor/ceiling and 100% load - bearing partition systems; new proprietary pitched chord truss systems; over 10 new steel column protection systems. 142 pages.

### **APPLICATION AND FINISHING OF GYPSUM PANEL PRODUCTS GA-216-2007**

Describes the most up-to-date industry and building code recommendations for the proper installation and finishing of gypsum panel products, including related accessories, over a variety of substrates and framing. An invaluable resource for drywall contractors. 18 pages.

### **DESIGN DATA - GYPSUM BOARD GA-530**

Our most complete collection of current Gypsum Association publications containing the most recent edition of the *Fire Resistance Design Manual* (GA-600) as well as GA-214, GA-214-M, GA-216, GA-220, GA-221, GA-222, GA-223, GA-224, GA-225, GA-226, GA-229, GA-232, GA-234, GA-235, GA-236, GA-253, GA-254, GA-276, GA-290, GA-291, GA-406, GA-510, GA-515, GA-610, GA-618 and ICC-ES ESR-1338.

### **RECOMMENDED LEVELS OF GYPSUM BOARD FINISH (GA-214) RESOURCES**

*Levels of Finish* resources provide information on the 5 levels of gypsum board finish and will enable you both to anticipate the final appearance of decorated wall and ceiling systems and to achieve a specified finish. Resources cover factors to be considered, terminology, where each level should be used, and the minimum requirements for each level. Featured resources include GA-214-VS, an 11 minute *Levels of Finish* video containing Spanish narration, and GA-214-CCD, an instructional CD-ROM (English).

To place your order, fax or mail this order form to:

**Gypsum Association**  
6525 Belcrest Road, Suite 480  
Hyattsville, MD 20782  
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301-277-8747 (Fax)

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| ____ Copies of <i>APPLICATION AND FINISHING OF GYPSUM PANEL PRODUCTS</i> GA-216-2007 | x \$ 15.00 each = _____ |
| ____ Copies of <i>DESIGN DATA - GYPSUM BOARD</i> GA-530                              | x \$ 60.00 each = _____ |
| ____ Copies of <i>RECOMMENDED LEVELS OF GYPSUM BOARD FINISH</i> GA-214-VS (Spanish)  | x \$ 10.00 each = _____ |

Prices include shipping charges. Sales tax will be added to a Maryland address.

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### **FREE MATERIALS AND RESOURCES**

- ☐ Please send me the CD-ROM, *Recommended Levels of Gypsum Board Finish* (GA-214-CCD).
- ☐ Please send me a *Catalog of Publications, Resources, and Training Materials*.

### **GYPSUM ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP 2009**

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