

# VENEER PLASTER



**GYPSUM ASSOCIATION**

# INTRODUCTION

Gypsum veneer plaster systems are thin coat, high strength plaster systems that can be quickly applied over a variety of substrates. These systems simulate in many respects the versatility, beauty, and durability of conventional plaster systems. Gypsum veneer plaster finishes provide hard, dense surfaces that are resistant to scuffing, denting, cracking, and abrasion. The variety of possible veneer plaster finishes ranges from a mirror smooth surface to any type of floated, swirled, or light texture. Veneer plaster can be integrally colored with pigments or finished with any number of decorating products to achieve a broad array of looks.

Since their introduction in the 1960s, the quality of gypsum veneer plaster systems has been continuously improving. Today gypsum veneer plaster finishes meet exacting application and performance requirements, and they mix and spread quickly and easily.



# ADVANTAGES

Since the setting time of veneer plaster materials is generally between 45 and 90 minutes, veneer plaster systems can be installed more quickly than many comparable systems. With sufficient manpower and favorable environmental conditions, a job can be completed, from bare studs to decoration, in only 2 to 4 days. In addition, the systems offer low in-place costs along with high quality appearance. These qualities readily meet modern building requirements and enhance the range of options available to the designer, owner, and contractor.

# MANUFACTURED TO STRICT STANDARDS

Gypsum veneer plaster and veneer base are manufactured to comply with industry standards under controlled environmental conditions. Gypsum veneer plasters are complete when bagged and require only the addition of potable water. Similarly, the special gypsum board product designed as a substrate for veneer plaster, known as “gypsum base,” is specifically manufactured to work with a corresponding plaster product. Gypsum base has blue tinted face paper that distinguishes it from regular gypsum board. Since repeated exposure to direct sunlight can diminish the ability of the gypsum base to function as an acceptable plaster substrate, the board should be protected from direct sunlight during storage and installation prior to the application of plaster.

Gypsum veneer plaster system components are manufactured to comply with the following ASTM Specifications:

- ✓ ASTM C 587, Standard Specification for Gypsum Veneer Plaster
- ✓ ASTM C 1396, Standard Specification for Gypsum Board

## ONE OR TWO COMPONENT SYSTEMS

Gypsum veneer plasters are available in either one or two component systems. Each type is available pre-mixed in bags, ready to combine with water at the job site. One component systems provide quick and easy finishing while two component systems provide improved aesthetics, especially where indirect lighting conditions exist or high gloss paint is specified.

The plastering phase of one component systems can be completed in one or two days. The finished surface can then be decorated usually within 24 hours under favorable conditions. Two component systems can be applied over a variety of substrates and enable the applicator to level out slightly uneven surfaces.

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## One Component Systems

A one component gypsum veneer plaster system consists of one product ready to be applied as a thin membrane after the addition of potable water. This system is usually applied using the “scratch-and-double-back method,” producing a thickness of 1/16 inches to 3/32 inches. The surface can be trowelled to a highly polished finish or worked to achieve a float, swirl, pucker, dimple, Spanish, or other finish.

One component systems are designed to work best over gypsum base, but they can also be applied to other bases such as monolithic concrete or masonry block with good results. Coarser float or deeper texture finishes can be made by the addition of sand.



## Two Component Systems

Two component systems are comprised of two different products packaged in separate containers. These systems may be used without sacrificing speed. Gypsum basecoat plaster, many times stronger than conventional plaster, is applied over the base. The finish coat may be applied approximately two hours after the base coat has set or when proper “suction” is achieved.

Two component veneer plaster systems are particularly suitable for use over masonry block walls since the trowelled base coat may be applied in a sufficient thickness to level out the surface. The finish coat is then applied after the base coat has set and achieved proper suction. The two component system can be finished to a smooth finish, as a sand texture, or to display another texture.



## GYPSUM BASE FOR VENEER PLASTER

Gypsum base, or “Blue Board,” is a gypsum board substrate specifically designed to support the gypsum veneer plaster. Gypsum base is usually 4 feet wide and available in 8 foot, 10 foot, and 12 foot lengths. Other lengths are available by special order. Standard base thicknesses are 3/4-inch, 1/2-inch, and 3/4-inch. Type X special fire-resistant bases are available in 1/2-inch and 5/8-inch thicknesses.

Gypsum bases vary among manufacturers. Each manufacturer's gypsum base is specifically designed to receive its accompanying gypsum veneer finish. Manufacturers' instructions must be carefully followed to ensure the proper matching of the gypsum base and gypsum veneer plaster.

Installation of gypsum base is very similar to the installation of regular gypsum board; the tools and techniques used are essentially the same. The main difference in the installation between the two systems is that the surface of the veneer base is not dimpled at the fasteners when veneer base is nail-applied. Joint finishing techniques and materials are also different when gypsum base is installed.

## DIRECT APPLICATION TO MASONRY SURFACES

Both one and two component veneer plaster systems may be used to provide a high quality, durable finish over a variety of masonry surfaces, particularly concrete block and monolithic concrete. One component systems are best used over smooth, straight and true masonry surfaces, while two component veneer plaster systems allow for a modest amount of surface variation. Most veneer plaster systems used over masonry substrates will require some surface preparation and the application of a bonding coat to perform as intended.

So, when a job calls for a high quality, durable system that can be installed and decorated quickly, consider a veneer plaster system.



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