

These recommendations apply to gypsum board installed on interior walls, partitions, and ceilings. For gypsum sheathing recommendations, see GA-253 *Application of Gypsum Sheathing*. For information on joint treatment drying conditions, see GA-236 *Joint Treatment Under Extreme Weather Conditions*.

Cold and damp weather conditions can contribute to joint compound bond failure, delayed shrinkage, ridging, fastener pops, joint shadowing, and panel sagging. Observing the following precautions during periods of cold and damp weather will reduce jobsite problems.

- Gypsum panel products and joint treatment shall not be applied to cold or damp surfaces.
- The room temperature shall be maintained at not less than 40°F (4°C) for mechanical application of gypsum panel products.
- For adhesive application, joint treatment, laminating layers of panels, texturing and decoration, the temperature of the building shall be continuously maintained at not less than 50°F (10°C) from 48 hours before application and continuously until after the applied materials are thoroughly dry.
- After gypsum panel application, interior temperatures shall be maintained at not less than 50°F (10°C) for a minimum of 48 hours before drywall priming and decoration begins. Any adhesives or laminating compounds shall be completely dry and the panel firmly bonded before taping and finishing. Subsequent finishing and texturing shall not proceed until previous applications are completely dry.
- Ready-mix joint compounds and textures shall be protected against freezing.
- When a temporary heat source is used, the temperature shall not exceed 95°F (35°C) in any given room or area.
- When portable gas or kerosene heaters are used, the extra water vapor produced shall be removed by ventilation or mechanical dehumidification. See GA-236 *Joint Treatment Under Extreme Weather Conditions*.
- Adequate and continuous ventilation shall be provided in the working area during the installation and the drying or setting period.
- The proper thickness, orientation, and type of gypsum panel shall be used to avoid sagging when ceilings are to be textured.
- Where a vapor retarder is installed on ceilings behind the gypsum panel, it is important to install the batt or blanket ceiling insulation BEFORE the gypsum panel. Where loose fill insulation is used, install the insulation IMMEDIATELY after the gypsum panel. The insulation will thermally isolate the unconditioned attic from the conditioned space below. This practice prevents interior moisture from condensing on the vapor retarder and being absorbed by the gypsum panel.
- The use of setting-type joint compounds may prevent many cold weather-related finishing problems.

NOTES

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