



GYPSUM ASSOCIATION

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GUIDELINES FOR PREVENTION OF MOLD GROWTH ON GYPSUM BOARD (GA-238-03)

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. Observing these guidelines will help minimize the potential for mold growth on gypsum board. GYPSUM BOARD MUST BE KEPT DRY to prevent the growth of mold.

TRANSPORTATION AND RECEIVING

- 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.

STORAGE AND HANDLING

- 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.
- Gypsum board must be delivered to the job site as near to the time it will be used as possible.

APPLICATION

- Provisions must be made to keep gypsum board dry throughout application.
- Gypsum board that has visible mold growth must not be used.
- Gypsum board on walls must be applied with a minimum 1/4" (6 mm) gap between the gypsum board and the floor.
- Gypsum board must not be applied over other building materials where conditions exist that are favorable to mold growth.

MAINTENANCE FOLLOWING APPLICATION

- Essential elements of a sound weather-tight building envelope must be properly maintained, such as the roof, sealants, windows, etc.
- Immediate and appropriate remediation measures must be taken as soon as water leaks or condensation sources are identified.
- Routine cleaning and maintenance operations must be performed so as to prevent saturation of the gypsum board.

ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION

The following Web sites provide information and recommendations for treating mold growth; other Web sites also provide similar suggestions.

California Indoor Air Quality Program at <http://www.cal-iaq.org/iaqsheets.htm>

Federal Emergency Management Agency at <http://www.fema.gov/pdf/hazards/fststpbr.pdf>

New York City Department of Health at <http://www.ci.nyc.ny.us/html/doh/html/epi/moldrpt1.html>

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency at <http://www.epa.gov/iedweb00/pubs/moldresources.html>