

DEFINITIONS

(Common Wall & Ceiling Industry Terms and their meanings)

A

ACCELERATOR: an admixture that will shorten the setting time of a material.

ACCESSORIES: linear formed metal, metal and paper, or plastic members fabricated for the purpose of forming corners, edges, control/expansion joints or decorative effects in conjunction gypsum wallboard and/or plaster assemblies.

ACOUSTICAL CEILING: sound absorbing and/or sound attenuating modules held in a suspended grid.

ACOUSTICAL PLASTER: a plaster material designed to correct sound reverberations, or reduce or absorb noise.

ACOUSTICAL SEALANT: special caulking material designed to seal gaps and cracks to reduce sound flanking in an assembly.

ACID ETCHING: cleansing and controlled erosion of a solid surface, using an acid wash.

ACID WASHING: cleansing of plaster surface through controlled dissolution of surface deposits to remove efflorescence, dirt or other unwanted stains.

ACRYLIC FINISH COAT: finish coat used over portland cement basecoat or the final coat of an EIFS. Made with a thick bodied paint with an aggregate of varying gradation added for a desired texture.

ADDITION: a substance that is interground or blended in limited amounts into hydraulic cement during manufacture not at the jobsite either as a processing addition to aid in manufacturing and handling the cement or as a functional addition to modify the useful properties of the cement improperly called additive.

ADHESION; state in which two surfaces are held together by interfacial effects that may consist of molecular forces, interlocking action, or both and/or the ability of a fresh coat of material to adhere to a base.

ADHESIVE-BACKED MEMBRANE: generally used in mitigating weather barrier and flashing installations.

ADDITIVE: an admixture which is added to base materials when blended and intended to provide a specific benefit or desired characteristic to the basic blend. (see addition)

ADMIXTURE: a material, other than water, aggregates, and hydraulic cement, used as an ingredient of portland cement plaster, which is added to the batch to change the performance and/or workability of the plaster

AESTHETIC RUSTICATION: grooves/reveals placed in plaster to delineate lines and shadowing effects.

A-FRAME: open structure acting as a scaffold tapering from a wide base to a load-bearing top.

AGGREGATE: an inert material used as filler for mixing with a cement paste. In plastering, the aggregate usually means sand, vermiculite or perlite.

AIR BARRIER: typically installed as a system to restrict the flow of air or control air leakage between a conditioned space and an unconditioned space.

AIR-ENTRAINING CAPACITY: the capability of a material or process to develop a system of minute bubbles of air in cement paste, mortar or plaster during mixing.

AIR ENTRAINMENT: intentional procedure or additive to introduce small air bubbles throughout the mass of the material. Provides improved flow, workability and freeze thaw resistance in plasters.

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ALL-PURPOSE JOINT COMPOUND: gypsum wallboard joint compound that may be used to embed paper joint tape, finish joints, laminate gypsum panels or a texture.

AMBIENT LIGHT: the generally available, surrounding or pervading light in an area, coming from all sides, including outside light coming in through windows.

ANGLE IRON: metal section sometimes used as main runners in lieu of channels.

ANHYDRITE: the mineral consisting primarily of anhydrous calcium sulfate.

ARCH CORNER BEAD: a flexible corner bead designed to allow jobsite forming of an arch.

ARRIS: the sharp, external corner edge that is formed at the junction of two planes or surfaces.

ARRIS: a sharp edge, forming an external corner of the junction of two surfaces.

ARTICULATION CLASS: classification to rate the degree of speech recognition allowed to transmit through ceilings or partitions.

ASRHAE: American Society of Refrigeration, Heating and Air Conditioning Engineers.

ASSEMBLY: generic wall construction composed of generic and/or proprietary materials.

ATOMIZER: device used to introduce air into a material at the point of material dispersion to regulate texture and/or flow.

ATTENUATION: the diluting or holding back of the energy of sound waves as they pass through a material.

B

BACK BLOCKING: a short piece of gypsum board adhesively laminated behind the joints between each framing member to reinforce the joint.

BACKLOADED INSULATION: thermal acoustical insulation placed above the ceiling suspension system and laid across the horizontal grid members above the accoustical panel or tile. Also known as : "Backloading".

BACKPLASTER: plaster applied to the plaster base opposite a previously applied plaster.

BACKUP STRIPS: pieces of wood nailed at the ceiling sidewall corner to provided fastening for ends of plaster base or gypsum panels.

BALLOON FRAME: method of framing outside walls in which studs extend the full length or height of the wall.

BAR JOIST: open-web, flat truss structural member used to support floor or roof structure.

BARREL CEILING: a rounded or semi-circular ceiling.

BASECOAT: plaster coat or combination of coats applied previous to the finish coats.

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BASE SCREED: an accessory item used to terminate plaster at the base of the wall. Typically will have a provision for water to exit and may be called a “weep” screed. **BATCHING:** weighting or volumetrically measuring and introducing into the mixer the ingredients for a batch of plaster.

BEDDING COAT: the applied coat of plaster use to receive an aggregate (typically stone or pebbles) and is embedded into the surface prior to setting.

BENCH MARKS: identification symbols from which differences in elevations are measured.

BEVEL EDGE: an acoustical tile is considered beveled material when the face of the tile turns up at the edge at approximately 45 degrees for 1/8” to 1/4” around the perimeter of the tile.

BINDERS: cementing materials, either hydrated cements or products of cement or lime and reactive siliceous materials; cement typed and curing conditions govern the binder formed.

BLEEDING: the accumulation of mixing water on the surface of plaster caused by compression of their solid materials within the mass. Bleed water occurs on the surface of a mass of plaster in a container or hopper commonly influenced by vibration.

BLISTERS: small protuberances on the finish coat of plaster or gypsum board.

BLOCKING: a method of joining or filling between two intersecting planes of material, the entire thickness, from the base coat or substrate up to the outer surface of a finish coat, and/or method of joining, reinforcing, securing, or providing thermal protection between two intersecting planes. To fasten a membrane or metal flashing that covers over the space between tow intersecting planes.

BLUE BOARD: the slang term used to describe a veneer plaster base board. Typically has a bluish colored face paper.

BOND: term used to adhere plaster to a base or other material. A chemical bond implies interlocking crystals or fusion between coats or to the base. A mechanical bond implies a physical keying of one plaster coat to another or to the base.

BONDBREAKER: a material used to prevent adhesion of newly placed materials to a section of a substrate.

BOND STRENGTH: the adhesion developed between a material and a substrate; the resistance to separation of materials to another.

BONDING AGENT/COMPOUND: compounds surface applied or integrally mixed with plaster to improve the quality of bond between plaster and plaster base or between plaster and plaster base or between plaster coats.

BRIDGING: a section (typically cold rolled channel) sized to fit inside the flanges of studs and or joists to stiffen the assembly.

BROWN COAT: the coat of plaster directly beneath the finish coat. In two-coat work, the brown coat refers to the plaster coat over the lath or directly to the solid cementitious substrate. In three-coat work, the brown coat refers to the plaster coat applied over the scratch coat. The brown coat should be slightly rough to assure proper keying for the finish coat.

BUCKLES: large lifted areas of a plaster coating that failed to properly bond to the substrate or to the material undercoat,

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION JOINT: a designed division of a building, in any plane, which may be caused by thermal, seismic, wind loading, or any other force,

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BULL NOSE: refers to a rounded corner and can be created by a trim accessory or hand formed by materials on site.
BURNISHING: to hard trowel the surface of concrete or plaster up to final set and/or to otherwise produce a very smooth surface.

BUTTERFLIES: refers to reinforcement strips placed diagonally over or prior to plaster at the corners of openings.

C

CAC (CEILING ATTENUATION CLASS): rates a ceiling's efficiency as a barrier to airborne sound transmission between adjacent closed offices and shown as a minimum value previously expressed as CSTC or Ceiling Sound Transmission Class.

CALCINED GYPSUM: a dry powder; primarily calcium sulfate hemi-hydrate, resulting from calcination of gypsum; cementitious base for production of most gypsum plaster also called plaster of paris

CALCIUM ALUMINATE CEMENT: product that when added to portland cement plaster will accelerate the set.

CARBONATION: reaction between carbon dioxide and a hydroxide to form a carbonate, especially in cement paste or plaster; the reaction with calcium compounds that produces calcium carbonate.

CASING BEAD: sometimes referred to as a plaster stop, J metal or "milcor". This bead is used where plaster or gypsum wallboard is discontinued; around openings, terminations and where plaster or gypsum panels adjoin dissimilar materials.

CATFACE: blemish or rough depression in surface of a hard-troweled finish or other smooth texture.

CEILING RUNNER: see track.

CEMENT, BLENDED: a hydraulic cement consisting of portland cement, slag cement, or both, uniformly mixed with each other or a pozzolan through blending.

CEMENT FINISH COAT: a blend of portland cement, lime, and dry pigments, also known as stucco.

CEMENT, HYDRAULIC: a binding material that sets and hardens by chemical reaction with water and is capable of doing so underwater.

CEMENT, PLASTIC: blended cement consisting of cement, lime, sometimes pozzolans, fillers, or additives that give plasticity, workability and crack resistance to the cement and the plaster.

CEMENT, PORTLAND: hydraulic cement produced by pulverizing clinker formed by heating a mixture, usually of limestone and clay, calcium sulfate is ground with the clinker to control set.

CHANNELS: cold-rolled steel sections used as structural reinforcement to attach studs, furrings, or joists, of the walls or ceilings.

CHANNELS, CARRYING: main runners that are supported by hangers attached to the building structure and support the furring channels for pencil rods that support lath.

CHANNELS, FURRING: also known as cross furring, horizontal members of a suspended ceiling that support lath and run perpendicular to carrying channels. Channels used to create space between an assembly and a substrate.

CHASE: space provided in a masonry or concrete wall for pipes or conduit.

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CHECKING: development of shallow cracks at closely spaced but irregular intervals in a plaster surface. Also known as “alligator” or “craze” cracks

CHEMICAL BOND: a term used to describe adherence of one material to another or to a base which implies formation of interlocking crystals or fusion of the two materials.

CHEMICAL KEY (Bond): bond of materials developed by a chemical reaction.

CHOPPED FIBERS: see fibers

“CI” (CONTINUOUS INSULATION): insulation that is continuous across structural members without thermal bridges other than fasteners and service openings. May be installed on the interior or exterior of the structural members.

CLASS A: a fire classification for a product with a flame spread rating of no more than 25 and a smoke developed rating not exceeding 50, when tested in accordance with ASTM E84.

CLIP: wire or sheet-metal device used to attach various materials to supports or secure adjacent materials.

CLIP, FURRING: a metal fastener used to attach cross furrings to main runners of ceilings.

CLIPS: a formed wire or metal section used to attach or apply pressure on lath, furring or an accessory to aid and insure a rigid stable position.

COAT: a layer or film, as a thickness of plaster or paint, applied in a single operation.

COEFFICIENT OF THERMAL CONDUCTANCE (C): amount of heat (in btu) that passes through a specific thickness of a material per hour per sq'. Measured as temperature difference between surfaces.

COEFFICIENT OF THERMAL CONDUCTIVITY (K): convenient factor represents the amount of heat (in btu) that passes by conduction through 1” thickness. Measured as temperature difference between the surfaces of the material.

COEFFICIENT OF HEAT TRANSMISSION (U): total amount of heat that passes through an assembly of materials including air spaces and surface air films. “U” values are often used to represent wall and ceiling assemblies, floors and windows.

COHESION: the ability of a cementitious mixture to hold together and remain consistent during mixing, pumping, placing and finishing processes.

COLD JOINT: the juncture of fresh plaster, finish or coating adjacent to similar set material in the same plane.

COLD-ROLLED CHANNEL: a heavy gauge metal used as the main lateral support or cross furring for a suspended plaster ceiling also called channel iron.

COMBING TOOL: a tool to scarify or score a plaster scratch coat, also known as a “Scarifier”.

COMPRESSION POST: a rigid post to minimize uplift; connected to the suspended grillage and the structure above.

COMPRESSION STRENGTH: measures maximum unit resistance of a material to crushing load. Expressed as force per unit cross-sectional area as pounds per inch.

CONTACT CEILING: a ceiling secured in direct contact with the construction above without use of furring.

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CORNER-AID: welded wire corner reinforcement used in plaster applications that allow full embedment of the plaster. Product is available with a welded-wire nose or a PVC nose.

CORNER LATH: an inside corner reinforcement section for interior or exterior plastering where the corner bead is cut or is not continuous, around an internal corner or intersection planes.

CORNERBEAD: outer corner reinforcement with a solid sheet metal edge most commonly used in drywall applications and smooth plaster assemblies.

CONTROL JOINT: generally refers to a single-piece trim accessory used in plaster or drywall construction. Most single-piece control joints are intended to be limited to ¼ inch or less movement and in one direction only.

CONSTRUCTION JOINT: a designed division of a building that allows movement of all component parts of the building in any place, which may be caused by thermal, seismic, wind loading or any other force.

CORROSION: disintegration or deterioration of metal reinforcement due to electrolysis or chemical attack.

COVE: a curved or concave surface created on the inside corner transition from wall to ceiling or from step to riser. The inside curve, or cove is created by using a cove molding or formed with plaster using a cove tool

CRACKING, CHECK: random crack pattern of a plaster surface that may self-heal through ongoing hydration and curing process. Also known as map-cracking, Small cracks associated with Norman; moisture loss from within plaster during set and overall consolidation: and/or the development of shallow cracks at closely spaced but irregular intervals at the surface.

CRACKING, CRAZE: fine random cracks or fissure in the surface of a plaster

CRACKING, HAIRLINE: surface cracks having widths 1/16" or smaller

CRACKING, PLASTIC: cracking that occurs in the surface of a fresh mixture soon after it is placed and while is still plastic

CRACKING, REENTRANT: a hairline crack that can develop at a natural stress point (e.g. the apex of a 90 degree corner, at the corner of an opening or a penetration such as at a window or door)

CRACKING, STRUCTURAL (MOVEMENT): due to the structural movement of the supporting member, metal lath, frame or solid substrate.

CRITICAL LIGHT: strong, angular or harsh light that can show imperfections in reflecting surfaces.

CROSS FURRING: the smaller horizontal members that attach at right angles to the underside of main runners or other structural supports.

CROSS SCRATCHING: the scoring of the surface of a coat of plaster on a ceiling in different directions before applying the next coat of plaster to provide a better mechanical bond.

CROSS TEE: acoustical tile system that is inserted into the main runner to form different module sizes.

CURING: the act or processes of producing a moisture environment favorable to hydration, resulting in the setting or hardening of material.

CURLING: the distortion or warping of an essentially planar surface into a curved shape, due to several factors such as temperature and moisture differences within a plaster coat.

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CURTAIN WALL: a non-load bearing exterior wall supported by the structural elements of a building.

D

DADO: the lower portion of a wall that is usually separated from the upper portion by a molding or other material.

DAMPROOFING: treatment of plaster to retard the passage or absorption of water, or water vapor, either by application of a suitable surface treatment on exposed surfaces or by use of a suitable admixture or treated cement.

DARBY: the hand-manipulated straightedge, usually 3 to 8 ft long, used early-stage leveling operations of concrete or plaster, preceding supplemental floating and finishing.

DASH FINISH: machine application of a finish coat

DASH-BOND COAT: a wet mixture of plaster with or without aggregate, dashed onto the surface of a base to improve the mechanical key for subsequent coats of material.

DASH TEXTURE: a finish coat of thick plaster machine-applied onto a well prepared, uniformly plane surface of brown coat plaster.

DEAD LOAD: load on a building element contributed by the weight of the building materials.

DECORATION: paint (including primers), texture, coatings and coverings such as wallpaper and sheet plastic materials designed to conceal or protect the surface of gypsum board or plaster.

DEFLECTION: the limits at which an applied axial or wind load on a structural member will cause damage in a construction assembly. The design deflection criteria for stucco should be $L/360$ which is the length of the span (in inches divided by 360).

DEFS (DIRECT APPLIED FINISH SYSTEM): proprietary exterior cladding system consisting of polymer-based acrylic products adhered to an exterior sheathing.

DELAMINATION: splitting, cracking or separation of a cementitious material in a plane roughly parallel to, and generally near the surface. Generally affects large areas and can often only be detected through nondestructive tests such as tapping or chain dragging across the surface.

DESIGN LOAD: combination of weight (dead load) and other applied forces (live loads) for which a building or part of a building is designed based on the worst possible combination of loads.

DENSITY: the weight per unit volume of a material.

DEW POINT: the temperature at which air becomes saturated with moisture and below which condensation occurs.

DIAMOND MESH: see lath

DIRECT LIGHTING: lighting aimed at objects or surfaces

DOUBLE-UP COAT: the brown-coat plaster applied to the scratch coat plaster before the scratch-coat plaster has set. Also known as **DOUBLE-BACK COAT**.

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DOUBLE WEB: in acoustical ceiling systems indicates two layers of material in the construction of the vertical web of main runners and cross tees.

DOT: small lump of plaster placed onto the base coat or small pieces of metal, wood or nails can be set and perform similar function as a ground or depth gauge to assist the plasterer in obtaining proper plaster thickness and surface plane

DRIP SCREED: see weep screed.

DRYING TYPE: compound that hardens by the evaporation of the vehicle used to make a past

DRYOUT: soft chalky plaster caused by water evaporating before setting.

DRYWALL EDGE: the paper-bound edge as manufactured.

DRYWALL END: the end perpendicular to the paper-bound edge as manufactured and gypsum core is exposed.

DRYWALL PRIMER: paint material specifically formulated to fill the pores and minimize the suction difference between gypsum board surface paper and the compound used on finished joints, angles, fastener head and accessories and over skim coatings.

DUTY CLASSIFICATION: in acoustical ceiling systems, the load carrying capability of grid components in pounds per linear foot.

E

EARTH PIGMENTS: the class of pigments produced by physical processing of materials mined directly from the earth also frequently called natural or mineral pigments or colors.

EIFS (EXTERIOR INSULATION FINISH SYSTEM): proprietary exterior cladding consisting of polymer-based acrylic coatings over expanded polystyrene insulation adhered to a solid substrate.

EFFLORESCENCE: a generally white deposit formed when water-soluble compounds emerge in solution from concrete, masonry or plaster substrates and precipitate by reaction such as carbonation, or crystallize by evaporation.

EIFS: proprietary cladding system that incorporates a layer of (CI) foam and resembles cement plaster. Exterior insulation finish systems are the cladding and the primary water-resistive barrier. EIFS should not be confused with a cement plaster assembly that act as a weather barrier and may EIFS components.

ELASTOMER: any material such as rubber or synthetic material having similar properties that returns rapidly to approximately the initial dimensions and shape after substantial deformation by a weak stress and release of stress.

ENGLISH TEXTURE: plaster finish created by using rounded trowel to apply final texture in a random pattern.

ENTRAPPED AIR (OR AIR ENTRAPMENT): unintentional air voids in a (usually) wet material.

EPS (EXPENDED POLYSTYRENE): foam board also known as "bead board", typically white with varying degrees of density.

EXPANDED METAL LATH: see lath.

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EXPANSION JOINT: refers to a telescoping accessory used in plaster or drywall construction. Most expansion joints provide a greater range of movement than single-piece control joints and allow for movement in multiple directions.

EXTRUDED POLYSTYRENE: see XPS.

F

FACE PANEL: outside ply of multiple layer gypsum board assemblies.

FACTORY MIXED: quality controlled material combinations that have been formulated and blended by a manufacturer.

FAT: slang term for material accumulated on the trowel during finish plaster operation and used to fill in small imperfections also a term to describe working characteristics of any type of mortar.

FAUX FINISH: generally refers to a painted surface made to imitate a variegated plaster finish.

FEATHEREDGE: a wood or metal tool with a beveled edge and varying in length; used to straighten reentrant angles in finish coat plaster. Also used to plane the surface of the brown coat and dry rod or dry rakebit to better control color in the finish coat.

FIBERGLASS MESH: an alkali-resistant mesh made specifically for being troweled into a polymer enriched cement skim coat. Typically four to six cubic ounces per square yard, heavy duty mesh (high impact areas) is up to twenty ounces per square yard.

FIBERS: natural or synthetic chopped strands of ¼" (shorts) to ½" added to portland cement plaster mixes at no more than a pound per cubic foot of cement.

FINISH COAT: the final and usually often the final decorative layer of a plaster assembly over plaster base coat/s.

FINISHED WALLBOARD: wallboard that has had the joints taped, has had the joints, fastener heads, and a flange of accessories concealed with joint compound, and has been sanded to prepare the surface to receive job applied decoration.

FLAME SPREAD: index of the capacity of a material to spread fire under test conditions as defined by ASTM Standard E84.

FLANGE: that part of an accessory extending over the face of gypsum wallboard or fastening part of plaster accessory.

FLASH COAT: a light coat of shotcrete used to cover minor blemishes on a concrete surface.

FLASHING: approved corrosion-resistive material provided in such a manner as to deflect and resist entry of water into the construction assembly.

FLOAT (FLOATING): act of compacting and leveling brown-coat plaster to a reasonable true surface plane using a float tool or the act of bringing the aggregate to the surface of finish-coat plaster.

FLEXURAL STRENGTH: the maximum load sustained by a standard specimen of a sheet material when subjected to a bending force.

FOG COAT: a cementitious paint machine applied, used to improve color consistency of a pigmented cement finish coat.

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FOUNDATION WEEP SCREED: used to provide a weep mechanism as part of the drainage system as required at the bottom of all framed walls; the International Building Code in ASTM C1063.

FRAMING MEMBER: studs, joist, runners (track) bridging, bracing and related accessories manufactured or supplied in wood or light gauge steel.

FREE WATER: all water contained by gypsum board or plaster in excess of that chemically held as water of crystallization.

FRIEZE FINISH: plaster finish coat texture that is brushed (broomed) prior to final application of a trowel texture.

FURRED CEILING: composed of lath and plaster that is attached to the structure by means of steel channels, rods or furring strips in direct contact with the construction above.

FRESCO: art or decorative method consisting of a water-soluble paint that is applied to freshly spread plaster before it dries.

G

GALVANIZED: coating with zinc to inhibit rusting.

GAUGE: thickness of sheet metal or diameter of wire. Often a measurement for steel framing members being fazed out for the more precise measurement of mil thickness. Also known as "gage" or "ga".

GAUGING PLASTER: a calcined gypsum plaster designed to be mixed with lime putty.

GENERIC: the term used to describe basic building products or systems that are found in the building codes and do not violate manufacturer's warranties when mixed, matched or used in conjunction with a competitor's product.

GFRC: glass reinforced concrete

GFRG: glass reinforced gypsum

GLASS MAT: a mat of glass fibers,

GLAZING: a condition created by the fines of a machine-applied, dash-textured plaster migrating to the surface and producing a flattened texture and shine or discoloration. This may be caused by excessive mixing water in the base coat, acoustical mortar, or other finishes of lean mixture proportions having excessive moisture water. Glazing can also occur from working a plaster that is wet, or overworking a plaster.

GRADIATION: the sized distribution of aggregate particles determined by separation with standard screen sieves.

GREEN BOARD: the slang term used to describe water-resistant gypsum wallboard that has a greenish face paper and water-resistant core

GRID: in acoustical ceiling systems, the structural system of main beams, cross tees and associated hardware which hangs from the deck above and supports lay-in, concealed or surface attached ceiling panels.

GRILLAGE: the ceiling framework composed of main runner channels and furring channels to support the plaster.

GROUND: that part of an accessory which establishes the thickness of plaster and also mechanically keys to the plaster.

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GROUT: gypsum or portland cement plaster used to fill crevices or to fill hollow metal frames.

GYPSUM BOARD: the generic name for a family of sheet products consisting of a noncombustible core primarily of gypsum with paper surfacing.

GYPSUM CONCRETE: a calcined gypsum mixed with wood chips or aggregate, or both.

GYPSUM CORE BOARD: a ¾" to 1" gypsum board consisting of a single board or factory laminated multiple boards, used as a gypsum stud or core in semisolid or solid gypsum board partitions.

GYPSUM FOAMBOARD: a gypsum panel product used as a permanent form for poured gypsum roof decks.

GYPSUM LATH: a gypsum board used as the base for application of gypsum plaster.

GYPSUM PLASTER: ground calcined gypsum combined with various additives to control the set, for interior use only.

GYPSUM SHEATHING: a gypsum board used as a backing for exterior surface materials, manufactured with water repellant paper and may be manufactured with a water resistant core.

H

HANGERS: wires or steel rods or straps used to support main runners for suspended ceilings beneath floor or roof constructions.

HARSH MIXTURE: a plaster mixture that lacks desired consistency and workability due to a deficiency of cement paste, aggregate finish, sufficient water, or a combination thereof.

HAWK: a tool used by plasterers to hold and carry plaster mortar; generally a flat piece of wood or metal approximately 12"² to 20" with a wooden handle centered and fixed to the underside.

HOG RING: a fastening mechanism using a heavy, galvanized wire staple applied with a pneumatic gum that clinches the staple in the form of a closed ring around a stud, rod, pencil rod, or channel.

HOLD DOWN CLIPS: in acoustical ceiling systems, mechanical fastener that snaps over the bulb of a grid system to hold ceiling panels in place.

HOOK TEE: in acoustical ceiling systems, cross tee with an end tab that hooks through the rout hole and rests on the vertical web of the main runner.

HOT MUD: slang term for drywall setting compound that sets based on chemical reaction as opposed to air-drying compounds.

HYDRATED LIME: product manufactured by heating limestone until carbon dioxide is removed, thus forming quicklime (calcium and magnesium oxides), subsequently hydrated using water additions.

HYDRATION: formation of a compound by the combining of water with some other substance, in cementitious materials the chemical reaction between hydraulic cement and water. Also see Curing.

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I

INSERTS: devices embedded in concrete structural members to provide a loop or opening for attachment of hangers.

INTERMEDIATE-DUTY SYTEMS: in acoustical ceiling systems, used primarily for ordinary commercial structures where some ceiling loads, due to light fixtures and air diffusers, are anticipated.

ISOLATION JOINT: a separation between adjoining parts of a plaster that allows the least interference of relative movement to the structure in three directions usually a vertical plane, yet avoids formation of cracks in the plaster. Typically, all or part of the bonded reinforcement is interrupted.

J

JAMB: one of the finished upright sides of a door or window frame.

JOINT PHOTOGRAPHING: a condition where the finished joint areas visible after final decoration.

JOINT TREATMENT: application of joint tape and compound to the joint between gypsum boards.

JOIST: small beam that supports part of the floor, ceiling or roof of a building.

K

KEEN'S CEMENT: gypsum plaster characterized by a low mixing water requirement and special setting properties, primarily used with lime to product hard, dense finish coats aka "red top".

KERF: the process of cutting grooves across a board or beams to make it flexible for bending.

KEY: to created a mechanical bond between a plaster coat and another surface by roughening, scratching, scoring, etching, or otherwise creating a surface that the plaster can interlock into and/or to mechanically fasten or fix into position in a notch, score, or other recess.

L

LACE FINISH:: plaster float finish also known as a "skip trowel" texture.

LAITTANCE: a layer of weak material derived from cementitious material and aggregate fines either carried by bleeding to the surface or to internal cavities of freshly placed cementitious mixture; or 'overtrowelled '/overworked' cement or mortar.

LAMINA: a crack-resistant, acrylic-modified base/skim coat with a fiberglass mesh embedment. An EIFS lamina includes a 100% acrylic finish.

LAMINATING COMPOUND: used to adhere gypsum board to gypsum board or other monolithic materials.

LATH: a framework that is secured to the framing, furring, or other members of a structure providing a base and reinforcement for plaster.

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LATHER: a technician who installs lath, trims and accessories.

LEVELING COAT: often referred as a second layer of a plaster base or brown coat to “even” out the surface plane to receive a coating or finish.

LIME: specifically, calcium oxide; loosely, a general term for the various chemical and physical forms of quicklime, hydrated lime, and hydraulic hydrated lime.

LINE WIRE: 18 gauge (or heavier) annealed steel wire used as lath or wire backing in open wood-frame construction often tightly stretched across the studs every 6” apart.

LIVE LOAD: part of the total load on structural members that is not permanent part of the structure may be variable, as in the case of loads contributed by the occupancy and wind and/or snow loads.

LOAD-BEARING PARTITION: designed to support a portion of the building structure.

M

MASTIC: a general term usually referring to high viscosity adhesives.

METAL BASE: a fabricated metal section attached to framing members or masonry to reinforce plaster and also serves as a ground for gauging plaster thickness. Also known as “plaster base”.

MAINRUNNER: the heaviest suspended ceiling supporting members, or carrying channels, that support the furring channels, rods or to which the lath is fastened and are supported by hangers attached to the building structure. In acoustical ceiling systems, Primary or main beams of the grid system.

MARBLECRETE: exposed aggregate stucco finish consisting of natural or integrally colored aggregate, partially embedded in a natural or colored bedding coat of portland cement.

MECHANICAL KEY OR BOND: plaster that physically surrounds, penetrates, or deforms to lock onto the perforations or irregularities of the plaster base or previous coat of plaster.

METAL PLASTER BASE expanded metal lath, woven, or welded wire lath.

MILL MIXED: see Factory Mixed.

MINERAL WOOL: a man-made wool-like material of fine inorganic fibers made from slag and used as loose fill or formed into blanket, batt, block, board, or slab shapes for thermal and acoustical insulation.

MOIST CURING: any method employed to retain sufficient moisture for hydration of portland cement plaster.

MORTAR: material used in a plastic state which becomes hard or set in place and used without regard to the composition of the material.

MOTTLING: also known as discoloration which is the varying degrees of a color in a plane.

MODERATE CONTACT: the edges and ends of drywall are butted at joints but not forced together.

MULLION: a vertical division in a frame separating two or more sections.

DEFINITIONS

(Common Wall & Ceiling Industry Terms and their meanings)

N

NAIL POP: the protrusion of the nail usually attributed to the shrinkage of or use of improperly cured wood framing.

NON-LOAD BEARING: structurally non-essential.

NOSING: a rounded edge formed by shaping freshly placed material or by attaching a preformed molding.

NOZZLE MAN (OPERATOR): the technician who manipulates the nozzle of a plaster gun and controls placement of a fresh cement mixture.

NRC (Noise Reduction Coefficient): measurement rating of a material's ability to absorb sound reducing the amount of noise within an area..

O

ONE COAT STUCCO: a proprietary manufactured plaster base coat product that is installed in one 3/8" min application pass with a 1/8" finish coat.

OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Act): federal law setting forth rules for the safely working practices and equipment in all areas of business and industry.

P

PARALLEL OR VERTICAL APPLICATION: gypsum board applied with the edges parallel to the framing member to whom it is attached.

PARAPET WALL: extension of an exterior wall above and/or through the roof surface

PARGE: an archaic plaster term used to describe coating masonry with plaster.

PARTITION: a wall that subdivides spaces within any story of a building.

PARTY WALL: special purpose wall system used to divide compartments for different occupancies and may have requirements fire, smoke or sound.

PENCIL ROD: mild steel rods of 3/16" to 3/8" in diameter.

PERFORMANCE SPECIFICATION: states how a building element must perform as opposed to describing equipment, products or systems by name.

PERIMETER RELIEF: a gap left around the perimeter of a wall, floor or ceiling membrane, such that it will not be in direct contact with the membrane of adjoining assemblies. Gap is normally caulked.

PERLITE: a siliceous volcanic glass properly expanded by heat and used as a lightweight aggregate in plaster.

PERM: a unit of measurement of Water Vapor Permanence as in ASTM E96.

PERMEANCE (Water Vapor): the ratio of the rate of water vapor transmission.

DEFINITIONS

(Common Wall & Ceiling Industry Terms and their meanings)

PERPENDICULAR OR HORIZONTAL APPLICATION: gypsum board application with edges applied at right angles to the framing member to which it attached.

PILASTER: a projecting square column forming part of a wall.

PLANT-ON: a shaped or form made of EPS (expanded polystyrene) or similar material, that is attached to plaster or sheathing.

PLASTER BASE: any surface that is suitable for the application of plaster. Metal lath, wire mesh, concrete, or masonry unites, Shotcrete and plaster undercoats are examples.

PLASTER MEMBRANE: the total thickness of all plaster coats including any embedded reinforcement such as metal lath or wire mesh.

PLASTICITY: the property of freshly mixed cement paste, mortar, or plaster which determines its workability and molding qualities.

PLASTICIZER: a material that increases the plasticity of fresh cementitious mixture.

PLENUM: chamber in which the pressure of the air is higher (as in a forced air furnace system) than that of the surrounding air. Frequently a description of the space above a suspended ceiling.

PLUMB: exactly straight up and down; vertical.

POLYISOCYANURATE: also known as “polyiso board”, a high density and rigid closed-cell foam sheathing containing a low conductivity gas. Typically has a plastic or rigid type facing.

POLYMER-ENRICHED CEMENT: plaster product consisting primarily of portland cement with synthetic additives to produce a plaster with specific qualities and performance capabilities.

POLYMER-MODIFIED PLASTER: a mixture of water, hydraulic cement, sand and a monomer or polymer.

POP-OFFS: the separation of a coat of plaster from itself or the separation of the plaster from a plaster base.

POP-OUTS: breaking away of small portions of a concrete, mortar, or plaster surface due to localized internal pressure that leaves a shallow, typically conical depression.

PORTAND CEMENT PLASTER: a mixture of portland cement or portland cement and lime and aggregate and other approved materials as specified in the code

POZZOLAN: a siliceous (silicone dioxide) or siliceous and aluminous material that of itself possesses little or no cementitious value but that will, in finely divided form and the presence of moisture. Chemically react with calcium hydroxide at ordinary temperatures to form compounds having cementitious properties; there are both natural and artificial types.

PROPRIETARY: term used to describe products or systems developed by a manufacturer and intended to be installed per that manufacturer's requirements and specifications.

PURLIN: horizontal member in a roof supporting common rafters, such as at the break in a gambrel roof.

PVC: poly vinyl chloride.

DEFINITIONS

(Common Wall & Ceiling Industry Terms and their meanings)

R

RACKING: the forcing out-of-plumb of a panel, wall or structural component by external forces such as wind, thermal expansion or contraction, or other stressed over the plane of the structural section.

R FACTOR (VALUE): a number measuring a materials resistance to heat flow, R stands for resistance, the inverse of conductivity.

RAFTER: that member forming the slanting frame of roof or top chord of a truss.

RAFTER TAIL: that part of a rafter that extends beyond the wall plate: the overhang.

RAINSCREEN: generally refers to an exterior wall cladding system with a measureable airspace between the building sheathing material and the backside of the exterior cladding system.

READY MIX: see factory mix

REENTRANT CRACK: a crack that develops at the natural stress point created at the corner of an opening or penetration such as a window or door.

RELIEF: a carving, embossing, or ornamental figure that either projects through or is fastened onto, the surface of plaster.

RETARDER: a material that extends setting time.

RETEMPER: to add water, break a set and remix a cementitious mixture to restore workability.

REVEAL: aesthetic groove or accessory placed in plaster or drywall assemblies to delineated lines and shadowing effects.

ROCK GUN: a tool used for propelling aggregate into a fresh plaster coat.

ROD: A tool used as a straightedge or screed to provide a uniform and level surface across a plaster coat usually by trimming to a ground or dot.

RODDING: method of straightening the stucco basecoat.

RUSTICATION: an interruption or change in plane of a plastered surface.

R VALUE: a rating of the thermal resistance of a product as stated and tested by the manufacturer.

S

SADDLE TIE: a specific method of wrapping hanger wire around main runners or a specific method of wrapping tie wire around the juncture of a main runner and a cross furring.

SAND FLOAT FINISH: a final plaster texture also known as a sand finish.

SANTA BARBARA: slang term for smooth coat cement plaster finish usually with minor tool marks, undulations and "open" area

DEFINITIONS

(Common Wall & Ceiling Industry Terms and their meanings)

SCARIFIER: see combing tool

SCARIFYING: the process of raking a fresh plaster surface to provide a mechanical key (bond) for the subsequent application of an additional coat of plaster.

SCORING: the grooving of the surface of unset plaster coat to provide a key for a subsequent coat.

SCRATCH COAT: the first coat of a plaster assembly applied to a plaster base.

SCREED: to strike off a cementitious mixture lying beyond the desired shape or a tool for string off the cement mixture surface.

SCREED (VENTILATING): a prefabricated bead accessory also known as a draft bead or draft stop that permits circulation of air from the outside and allows exiting of water and vapor from inside while preventing air draft.

SDC: Seismic Design Category, a building code rating system used by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) to determine what up-graded construction restraints or procedures shall be required for wall and ceiling construction and/or bracing. The categories range from A to F with an SDC of F requiring the most stringent seismic restraints.

SELF-FURRING: a metal plaster base manufactured with evenly spaced indentations that hold the body of the lath approximately 1/4" away from solid surfaces to which it is applied.

SET: the hardening and hydration of a plaster or a setting type compound.

SETTING TYPE: compound that hardens by a chemical reaction and increases in strength through drying.

SHAFT WALL: fire-resistant wall that isolates an elevator, stairwell or vertical mechanical chase.

SHIM: to build up low areas, to level or adjust height.

SHOE: a formed metal section used to attach metal studs to floors and ceiling tracks.

SILL PLATE: horizontal member laid directly on a foundation on which the framework of a building is erected.

SKIM COAT: a coat of material, base coat or finish material, applied to improve, "smooth out" or level a surface. A stucco finish coat applied directly to masonry or concrete.

SLICKER: a wood or metal straight-edge tool used in lieu of a dargy to float and smooth a stucco surface.

SLOBBER: any unnecessary plaster overspray, dropped or splattered plaster.

SOFFIT: undersurface of a projection or opening; bottom of a cornice between the fascia board and the outside of the building or underside of a stair, floor or lintel.

SOUND ATTENUATION: the reduction of sound energy as it passes through a conductor, resulting from the conductor's resistance to the transmission.

SPALL: a fragment from a larger mass by a blow, the action of weather, pressure or by expansion within the larger mass.

SPANDREL BEAM: horizontal member, spanning between exterior columns that supports the floor or roof.

DEFINITIONS

(Common Wall & Ceiling Industry Terms and their meanings)

SPANDREL EDGE: an acoustical tile is considered square-edge material when the edge of the tile is not beveled; it creates a hairline joint when installed. Drywall panels also may have square edges; however, drywall edges are typically tapered.

SPANDREL WALL: exterior wall panel, usually between columns, that extends from the window opening on one floor to one of the next wall.

SPANISH TEXTURE: plaster finish referring to a heavy skip-trowel finish coat.

SPONGE FLOAT: a soft trowel-like tool used for floating cement plaster finish.

STAFF: a plaster cast ornamental design of detail made in a mold and reinforced with fiber.

STIFFENER: horizontal metal shaped tied to vertical structural members or to partitions or walls to brace and stiffen the framework.

STRAIGHTEDGE: see rod.

STC (Sound Transfer Class): measurement of a material's ability to reduce the amount of sound transferred from one area to another.

STRINGER: heavy horizontal timber supporting other members of the frame in a wood or brick structure; a support also for steps.

STRING WIRE: see line wire

STUCCO: In the strictest, technical term, "stucco" refers to the final (finish) coat of exterior plaster in which the final color and texture are obtained. In common usage, the term is used for any or all of the multiple layers of portland cement plaster.

STUCCO FINISH: factory prepared, dry blend of materials for finish coat applications.

SUCTION: the absorptive capacity of a substrate or plaster surface immediately after being subjected to application of water or plaster.

SURFACE BURNING CHARACTERISTIC: rating of interior and surface finish material providing indexes for flame spread and smoke developed, based on testing conducted according to ASTM Standard E 84.

SUSPENDED CEILING: a ceiling suspended but not in direct contact with the overhead construction

SWEAT OUT: soft, damp wall areas caused by poor drying conditions.

SYSTEM: a proprietary wall system composed of specific materials approved by the system manufacturer.

T

TAPERED EDGE: an edge formation of gypsum board which provides a shallow depression at the paper-bound edge to receive joint reinforcement. Also known as a recessed edge.

TASK LIGHTING: lighting directed to a specific work surface or area to provide illumination for tasks.

DEFINITIONS

(Common Wall & Ceiling Industry Terms and their meanings)

TEGULAR: edge detail of acoustical tile panels that have a rabbeted/reveal edge design that allows them to extend below the supporting grid less conspicuous.

TEMPER: to mix or restore unset “wet” materials with water to a workable consistency.

TENSILE STRENGTH: maximum tensile stress that can be developed in a given material under axial tensile loading or the measure of a material’s ability to withstand stretching.

TEXTURE: any surface appearance as contrast to “smooth” surfaces.

THERMAL BREAK: a material or product that interrupts or restricts the temperature conductivity through metal.

THERMAL BRIDGING: also known as thermal short circuiting, refers to an unrestricted path of temperature transmission through an insulated barrier.

THERMAL EXPANSION: materials expanding and contracting from heat.

THERMAL RESISTANCE: resistance of a material or assembly to the flow of heat it is the opposite of the heat transfer coefficient.

THREE-COAT WORK: “traditional” plaster application in three successful coats with time between coats for setting and/or drying.

TIE, BUTTERFLY: a method used to attach lath using tie wire whereby the wire is twisted together, than cut leaving tails. These tails are bent outward in opposite directions.

TIE WIRE: annealed soft temper steel wire used for a variety of lathing operations.

TITLE 24: the California building/energy code, based on the International Building Code and enhanced to meet the requirements set by California.

TOPPING COMPOUND (MUD): specifically formulated and made for use over taping or all-purpose compounds to provide a smooth and level surface for the application of decoration.

TROWEL: a flat broad-blade steel hand tool used in the final stages of finishing operations to impart a relatively uniform surface or hand tool used to place, spread, shape , finish or otherwise apply materials.

TRUSS: open, lightweight framework of members, usually design to replace a large beam where spans are great.

TURTLEBACK: slang term for blistering or small localized area of wind crazing

TWO-COAT PLASTERIING: a method of plastering in two successive coats usually done over a concrete or CMU substrate.

U

U FACTOR: the measurement of the transmission of heat in time through a material, system or assembly. Often coined, “the opposite of a R value”.

DEFINITIONS

(Common Wall & Ceiling Industry Terms and their meanings)

V

VAPOR: the gaseous state of water (liquid) suspended in air. The most common test procedure for building materials is ASTM-96 test method A (the desiccant or dry cup method). The rate is expressed in perms.

VAPOR BARRIER (IMPERMEABLE): product used to prevent vapor from penetrating or intruding into a space. Generally 1.0 perm or less.

VAPOR PERMEABLE: product that allows water vapor to pass through after it is installed. Generally products with a perm rating of 10.0 or higher.

VAPOR RETARDER: product that restricts the flow of vapor. Generally products with a perm rating between 1.0 and 10.0.

VENEER PLASTER: calcined gypsum plaster specially formulated to provide specific workability strength, hardness and abrasion resistance characteristics when applied in thin coats over veneer gypsum bases or other approved base coats also called thin coat plaster.

W

WAINSCOT: the lower portion of an interior wall that is finished differently from the remainder of the wall, generally in wood.

WASHOUT: a lack of proper coverage and texture buildup in an area of the plaster coat.

WATER-RESISTIVE BARRIER (WRB): code-acknowledged term for a product such as grade “D” building paper, synthetic “housewraps” or liquid applied coatings.

WEATHER-RESISTIVE BARRIER: generic term for building papers and synthetic “house wraps” and other water-resistant components acting as a system or assembly.

X

XPS (EXTRUDED POLYSTYRENE FOAM): closed cell foam structure makes a highly water-resistant rigid foam board and a higher R value per inch than the more cost-effective EPS board.

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