



## Judging Interior Treated Gypsum Wallboard

### GENERAL INFORMATION:

Specifying the proper level of finish on a gypsum wallboard project starts with the architect preparing contract documents that accurately reflect the desires of the owner to the bidding wall and ceiling contractor. The procedure to judge and accept the final treated gypsum wallboard assembly can be subjective, argumentative and open to opinions. Keep in mind there may be a slight build-up of joint compound over the joints and attachment flanges of accessories, inherent to the fill and finish methods. These areas can be smooth, but not necessarily flat.

### JUDGING:

The viewed area shall be judged with inspection lighting that is representative of the finished lighting conditions in terms of intensity and location. The normal viewing position shall be at any angle provided it is established at a minimum distance of five feet from the surface to be viewed. Ceilings are viewed from the floor in a standing position.

Gypsum wallboard application and finishing procedures are somewhat skill intensive and perfection cannot be expected. Conversely, one should not see EYE CATCHING discrepancies and/or blemishes from a normal standing (viewing) position under normal occupied lighting conditions. This includes tool marks, pitting, ridges, over-sanding, miss-aligned trim accessories or excessive wavy corners. It is recommended that the surface be judged before the drywall primer is applied and then again after the paint is applied.

For surfaces to receive a texture decoration, it is recommended the surface be judged after the drywall primer is dried and before the texture is applied, and then again after the texture is dried.

### KEY ITEMS FOR JUDGING:

- Short periods (1/2 hour or less) of critical side lighting should not be used to judge surfaces
- Extreme bright lights shall not be used to artificially create critical harsh side lighting to judge final workmanship for acceptance, this includes flashlights. Gypsum wallboard finishers and/or painters may use strong halogen lighting during work and finishing, but is not intended to judge the final acceptance of work
- Surfaces shall be judged by viewing and not by touching or rubbing of hands. Straight edges, squares and levels should not be used to determine if a level of finish has been achieved
- Gypsum wallboard surfaces are not intended to be perfectly flat (minor inherent build-up is anticipated at joints, corner and trim accessories), they should appear smooth
- Parallel or side lighting is the most critical lighting and will highlight imperfections not normally visible
- Wall surfaces with deep tone colors or glossy finishes are recommended only to be applied over a level 5 finish
- Hallways, corridors, wall sconce lights, parallel or side lighting and large walls are all subjected to “joint banding” and are recommended to have a level 5 finish
- The application and type of drywall primer can affect the final appearance of the surface
- Viewing of a skim coat of joint compound (level 5) after it has dried the gypsum wallboard paper, treated joints, filled voids and spotted fasteners may be visible
- There is no specific mil thickness that constitutes a proper “skim coat”

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