STORAGE:
Gypsum board is a hydroscopic material, which means it has the ability to absorb or release moisture to reach a moisture content that is at equilibrium with its surrounding environment.

Gypsum board shall be stored supported evenly on a firm, dry, level, and structurally sound floor. Gypsum board shall never be stacked on its edge and left unattended or unsecured that could cause toppling. Gypsum board shall always be stored flat. Stacks of gypsum board shall be limited to a maximum height of 17 feet. Gypsum board should be stored in non-heavy-traffic areas, if unavoidable, corner protection and other safety devices are recommended to protect the sheets of gypsum board.

Gypsum board shall be stored in a warehouse or other suitable structure where it’s not exposed to weather or temperatures that exceed 125°F, nor in areas of excessive humidity. Plastic covering is typically provided for product protection during shipment on rail flatcars or flatbed trucks, this plastic is not suitable for storage of gypsum board in rain and other high moisture levels areas. Failure to remove this plastic covering can result in damage to the gypsum board due to moisture, condensation, wet product, water stains, discoloration, paper delamination, sag, and mold. Gypsum board shall not be stored outdoors without complete protection from the weather as prescribed from the manufacturer.

HANDLING:
Gypsum panels are very heavy. Workers shall always be extremely careful when working in an area where gypsum panel products are stored. For example, a 4 foot wide by 12 foot long by ½ inch thick gypsum board can weigh over 80 pounds, 25 sheets weigh over a ton. The following tips should be followed when handling gypsum board panels:

- Work in pairs whenever possible
- Panels shall be carried, not dragged. This will protect the corner edges
- When moved the panels manually, they shall be supported by the edges and shall never be carried flat
- Lift carefully with good techniques by using the legs and not your back
- Stack gypsum panels flat, not on edge or end
- Wear a dust mask when conditions warrant
- Protect eyes with safety glasses when necessary
- Wear proper personal protective equipment (PPE)