

# On the Job



News and resources for wall, ceiling and flooring contractors

## Fall 2002

### Welcome

USG's *On the Job* newsletter offers wall, ceiling and flooring contractors the latest news regarding USG products and systems, construction trends and technical issues.

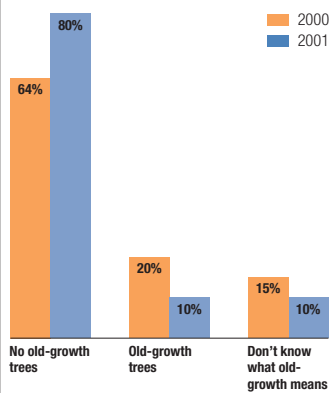
### Get Contractor News Via E-Mail

USG is now offering a free e-mail newsletter created specifically for contractors. The newsletter covers everything from product news and technical advice to installation tips and project case studies. Contractors can even customize the news they wish to receive. To subscribe, simply visit USG online at [www.usg.com](http://www.usg.com) and click on *Contractor Resources*.

## Business Wire

### Homeowners Are Concerned About Old-Growth Lumber

In a recent survey, homeowners were asked whether they would prefer a home that used lumber from old-growth trees or a home that did not use any old-growth trees. (The same question was asked in 2000 and 2001 surveys.)



Source: Cahners Residential Group *State of Green Building Survey* (2000, 2001)

## Sustainable Construction Gains Momentum

Whether it's called sustainable design, green building or environmentally friendly construction, there's no doubt that the increasing importance being given to recycled and renewable building products and resource-efficient construction practices is having a dramatic impact on the building industry.

The trend towards sustainable construction extends to all facets of the residential and commercial construction markets. On the residential side, a survey conducted by Cahners Residential Group in 2001 found that homeowners are especially concerned about energy efficiency and the use of old-growth lumber. More than 90 percent of the survey respondents rated energy efficient features in a new home as being extremely or very important. More than 60 percent of homeowners said that the use of sustainable lumber should be a standard for new home construction.

On the commercial side, the increased priority being given to sustainable building is apparent by the growing ranks of architects and building owners who are specifying recycled and renewable resources.

The growing demand for sustainable construction means that contractors not only need to be aware of green building issues, but also must be prepared to document the environmental benefits of the products they select.

Following is a brief summary of the green benefits provided by some commonly used floor, wall and ceiling products.

### Gypsum Board

Drywall scores extremely well on nearly all sustainable criteria. Gypsum, the primary raw material used to make wallboard, is neither rare nor endangered. The bulk of the remaining materials used to make drywall, including paper and binders made from corn and wheat starch, are either recycled or renewable.

### Gypsum Fiber Panels

The gypsum fiber manufacturing process used to make high-performance sheathings, abuse-resistant panels and floor underlayments offers significant environmental benefits. Underlayments, such as USG's FIBEROCK® Brand Underlayment are made from 95 percent recycled materials and offer an excellent sustainable alternative to wood-based panels.

### Acoustical Ceiling Panels

The recycled content in acoustical ceiling panels ranges from 20 to 80 percent. The mineral wool used in the panels is usually made from slag, a by-product of steel manufacturing. The use of slag reduces landfill waste. ●

For more information:

- Call 888.874.2450 to request USG's *Committed to the Environment* brochure (X2598).
- Visit USG online ([www.usg.com](http://www.usg.com)) and link to the *Contractor Resources* section to view a document called "Selecting and Specifying Sustainable Walls, Ceilings and Substrates".

## Product Focus



## SHEETROCK Brand Cavity Shaft Wall Systems

### Featuring Upgraded Liner Panels

USG's industry-leading cavity shaft wall systems are better than ever. The systems, which are now marketed under the SHEETROCK Brand name, feature a new component – SHEETROCK® Brand Gypsum Liner Panels – Enhanced. These panels offer the UL-classified fire resistance you've come to expect, along with moisture and mold and mildew resistance.

The panels feature a non-combustible gypsum core encased in a 100 percent recycled moisture- and mold-

and mildew-resistant blue face and back paper. They integrate seamlessly into all current USG UL-classified fire-resistant systems and handle just like standard SHEETROCK Brand Gypsum Liner Panels. They also minimize installer skin irritation and itch – a frequent concern among contractors who handle glass-mat faced panels. ●

For more information:

- Visit USG online ([www.usg.com](http://www.usg.com)).

## Project Analysis

### An Inside Look Behind a Spectacular Tile Application

Sometimes 'good' just isn't good enough.

Take the situation facing David McClendon, owner of Applied Colors, a tile contracting firm based in Fayetteville, Ga. McClendon, a 25-year veteran in the tile business, was recently contracted by homebuilder John Cox to layout and install the tile floors throughout a new 5,700 square foot home in Fayette County.

The home, located on a 12-acre site overlooking a nearby lake, is an architectural showcase. As such, the tile application needed to be nothing short of spectacular.

"When you come across a home with such unique design characteristics, it presents a wide range of installation challenges that truly force you to think outside the box," said McClendon.

With barely one square corner throughout the V-shaped home and 3,200 square feet of tile to lay, McClendon knew he was facing one of the most challenging projects of his career.

One of the first – and most important – decisions McClendon made was choosing the underlayment. Given the large amount of square footage, board workability was a key factor. The transitions between the tile and the hardwood were another primary consideration – they had to be perfect.

With those thoughts in mind, McClendon opted for FIBEROCK Brand Underlayment, a new 1/4-inch-thick impact- and moisture-resistant gypsum fiber panel from United States Gypsum Company.

"The FIBEROCK panels are so easy to work with," said McClendon. "They cut quickly and easily, and they don't crumble and break."

McClendon also noted that the underlayment's smooth, flat surface and low profile – a mere 1/4-inch thick – allowed him to create perfect transitions from tile to the hardwood flooring. Border tile pieces in the kitchen, for example, abut the hardwood flooring in the living room without the need for a wood threshold.

"It's the perfect underlayment for making that transition," he said. "There's not so much as a hump or bump where the tile meets the wood."

The installation of the 4- by 4-foot FIBEROCK panels gave McClendon the base he needed to create a stunning tile application. His tile layout beautifully complements the home's complex geometries, and the application of the \$40-per-square-foot tiles was as close to perfect as it gets.

"The owners are totally happy with what we've done," he said. "Top to bottom, it's one of the most unique houses I've ever worked on."

Project: Single-family home  
Location: Fayette County, Ga.  
Contractor: Applied Colors

"The FIBEROCK panels are so easy to work with."

David McClendon  
Owner  
Applied Colors

### FIBEROCK Brand Underlayment— The Right Choice



#### Lightweight Panels Deliver Performance, Environmental Benefits

No matter what the application, FIBEROCK Brand Underlayment, a gypsum fiber panel from United States Gypsum Company, gives flooring contractors an array of performance and installation advantages that simply can't be matched by traditional underlayments.

FIBEROCK panels speed installation. The lightweight, 1/4-inch-thick, 4- by 4-foot panels handle easily and cut quickly. Whether scored-and-snapped or cut with a low-rpm power saw, the installation flies. The panels fasten securely using either staples or screws (for ceramic tile applications).

They offer superior versatility. Because they are moisture resistant, FIBEROCK panels provide a single-source solution for every room in the home. Use them in wet areas and dry, under vinyl, ceramic tile, hardwood, laminate and carpeting.

They deliver better performance. FIBEROCK panels offer indentation resistance, while ensuring a smooth, flat surface that will not telegraph bumps, ridges or other imperfections.

Made from 100 percent recycled gypsum and cellulose, FIBEROCK panels also provide an environmentally friendly alternative to wood-based underlayments. ●

For more information:

- Call 888.874.2450 to request a Data Sheet (F103) and Installation Guide (F119).
- Visit USG online ([www.usg.com](http://www.usg.com)).

## Technical Topics

## Moisture, Mold, Mildew and Construction Practices



Controlling moisture is one of the most important job site considerations for any contractor, on any project. Exposure to moisture can adversely affect both the performance and appearance of a wide range of building materials, while creating an environment that can support the growth of mold and mildew.

Fortunately, there are numerous resources available that can help contractors gain a stronger understanding of moisture control as well as mold and mildew growth. This article contains a brief sampling of available information and provides a partial list of resources that contractors can turn to for more information.

### Mold Growth

There are more than 100,000 species of mold and at least 1,000 of those are common in the United States. Mold can grow on virtually any building product, including glass fiber insulation, lumber, carpet, fabric, vinyl wall coverings, paint, OSB, plywood, EIFS, siding, wallboard, ceiling panels and brick – just to name a few. Given the right conditions, even aluminum, steel and glass can be marred by mold growth.

What are the right conditions? To thrive, mold requires three essential factors: spores, nutrients and moisture. Since moisture is the only one of these factors that can be controlled on a job site, it becomes the key for controlling mold growth.

### Controlling Moisture

Moisture can infiltrate a construction site in any number of ways, including improper storage or exposure of building materials, condensation, pipe leakage, roof and window leakage and splashing. This can make identifying the source of moisture difficult. However, unless the moisture sources are identified and remedied during all phases of construction – from storage and application through job completion – mold and mildew growth will always be possible.

The use of mold-resistant products or the application of additional fungicides should never be the primary strategy for dealing with mold. This will not prevent a problem with mold growth if a building element is allowed to remain wet. It merely delays or displaces to an adjacent location the onset of mold growth in the structure. Due to the large number of mold species that commonly occur in building environments, broad-spectrum fungicides are required even for short term protection against mold. Applying antifungal agents consequently presents the possibility of introducing potential health risks that may have severe consequences in the future.

So, the best and most cost-effective strategy for managing mold growth comes back to moisture control. And that can only be accomplished through good design, construction and maintenance practices.

During the weeks and months ahead, USG will continue to identify and communicate best construction practices that can help contractors reduce their risk of moisture-related problems. ●

For more information:

- Call 888 847.2450 to request a copy of:
  - *Moisture, Mold, Mildew and Construction Practices – Frequently Asked Questions* (WB2317).
  - *Moisture, Mold, Mildew and Construction Practices – Repairing Water-Damaged Building Systems* (WB2315).
- Refer to USG's *Gypsum Construction Handbook* (Centennial Edition).

## Working for You

## Happenings, Events and Programs from USG



USG's Train-the-Trainers seminars include hands-on instructions in drywall finishing.

### Training the Trainers

As part of its ongoing commitment to help solve the construction industry's widespread labor shortage, USG recently held its fourth "Train-the-Trainers" seminar, a three-day, hands-on instructional course for vocational school carpentry instructors.

The program, held in cooperation with SkillsUSA-VICA, a national not-for-profit organization serving vocational and technical schools, provided an opportunity for 20 carpentry instructors from across the country to learn the proper techniques for installing and finishing drywall, cement board and gypsum fiber panels.

"By providing educators with the best-possible training in drywall installation techniques, we're helping them to better educate their students," said Rick Reese, USG's manager, sales training program development.

Since the program's launch in 2001, more than 80 vocational instructors have participated in four Train-the-Trainers seminars.

### USG Sponsors JLC LIVE Clinics

If you're planning to attend either of this year's two remaining JLC LIVE Residential Construction Shows, be sure to visit USG's "Drywall Trade Secrets" clinics. The free clinics will be held continuously during both the Las Vegas (September 27-28) and Portland (December 6-7) JLC LIVE expos.

Hosted by veteran contractor and drywall specialist Myron Ferguson, the clinics will provide contractors with inside information on the latest drywall tools, finishing products and time-saving application techniques.

Ferguson, who recently wrote a book entitled "Drywall: Professional Techniques for Great Results," will demonstrate how U.S. Gypsum's SHEETROCK® Brand Paper Faced Metal Drywall Bead can reduce installation time and costs, while dramatically improving the finished appearance and long-term performance of gypsum board corners. ●

For more information:

- Visit the JLC LIVE web site at [www.jlclive.com](http://www.jlclive.com).



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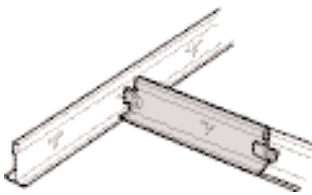
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## Did You Know



### Converter Simplifies 90-Degree Grid Changes

There's an easy way to make 90-degree changes in the direction of ceiling suspension system main tees. USG Interiors offers a 9-inch long Main Tee/Cross Tee Converter that simply clips into an existing cross tee slot. Another main tee can then be connected to the other end of the converter.

The accessory item is ideal for use at intersecting hallways, adjacent rooms and other applications where acoustical ceiling grid changes direction. It completely eliminates the measuring, cutting and mechanical

attachment typically required to accomplish 90-degree directional changes. The converter can be used with any of USG Interiors' DX® Brand Suspension Systems. ●

For more information:

- Call 888.874.2450 to request a copy of the **DONN® Brand Suspension System Accessories Guide (AC3130)**.
- Ask your local USG sales representative or ceilings distributor about the converter (DXMT/CT).



### Repair Clips Speed Drywall Patching

Next time you're faced with a large drywall repair (over 2 inches), try using U.S. Gypsum's SHEETROCK® Brand Drywall Repair Clips. Simply cut out the damaged area with a utility knife and slip the clips onto all four edges of the remaining drywall. Screw-attach the clips approximately 3/4 of an inch from the edge of the drywall and then position a replacement piece of gypsum board into the cut-out area. Screw-attach the new drywall to the repair clips placing the screws approximately 3/4 of an inch from the edge of the repaired

area. Then simply remove the exposed tabs on each clip and finish the area using joint compound and tape. The clips can be used on both 1/2- and 5/8-inch-thick gypsum board, and are available at home centers and building supply centers everywhere. ●

For more information:

- Call 888.874.2450 to request a copy of the **SHEETROCK Brand Drywall Repair Clips Product Data and Installation Sheet (J1014)**.



### ROCK FACE Ceiling Panels Stand Up To Abuse

When ceiling durability is a top priority, ROCK FACE® CLIMAPLUS™ Ceiling Panels from USG Interiors are made to meet the challenge. The recently re-introduced panels feature a specially compounded granular surface that withstands use and abuse in the toughest environments, including gyms, locker rooms and school corridors. The panels are backed by a 15-year limited warranty to withstand conditions up to 104 degrees F and 90 percent

relative humidity without visible sag when used with USG's DONN Brand Suspension Systems.

The panels are Class A fire-rated and come in 2- by 2- and 2- by 4-foot sizes, in 5/8- and 3/4-inch thicknesses. ●

For more information:

- Call 888.874.2450 to request a copy of the **ROCK FACE CLIMAPLUS Ceiling Panels Data Sheet (SC1840)**.

**Feedback:** onthejob@usg.com



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### USG Is The Leading User of Recaptured Gypsum

United States Gypsum Company is the largest user of recaptured gypsum in the country. USG plants use more than 2.3 million tons annually in the production of wallboard and other gypsum products. This translates to more than 90 million sheets of 4- by 8-foot by 1/2-inch-thick SHEETROCK Brand Gypsum Panels or enough wallboard to

build about 340,000 new, average-sized homes.

Recaptured gypsum is a by-product of several processes including certain chemical operations and flue gas desulfurization (FGD). Drywall made from recaptured gypsum offers the same handling and performance properties as panels made from natural gypsum. ●