

# Joint Tapes for Industrialized Construction

## Fiberglass Versus Paper Tape

Because of the nature of assembly-line production, fiberglass mesh tapes and setting-type compounds have been developed for Industrialized Construction. When paper tape and a drying-type compound are used for joint finishing, the water in the compound temporarily weakens the tape, creating a joint that only achieves strength after drying fully. In addition, the application of a paper tape joint finishing system requires higher skill levels and is more time-consuming than application of a system using mesh tape.

For these reasons, it is recommended that fiberglass tape and setting-type compound be used for finishing flats. (This tape is self-adhesive, which will also simplify and speed the finishing process.)

For areas such as corners and wall/ceiling intersections, the use of paper tape is recommended. Paper tape is supplied with a center crease to facilitate placement in interior angles.

**Installation Recommendations** Detailed procedures for joint finishing are provided in publication MH1216, *Manufactured Housing Handbook*. However, specific cautions should be observed to achieve proper joint finishing.

**Glass Fiber Tapes:** When using glass-fiber mesh tapes, it is important that compound be applied with sufficient force to push the compound through the tape and into good contact with the underlying gypsum panel. Wiping the compound over the top of the tape may conceal the joint, but will result in a significant increase in stress-cracking problems. It is also important that the glass-fiber strands spanning the joint lie flat in the plane of the board. If these fibers are pushed into the gap between the boards, the joint will be weakened. In cold weather, keep self-adhesive tapes in a warm area to facilitate adhesion.

**Paper Tapes:** Good performance with paper tapes depends on the proper application of joint compound beneath and above the tape during installation. The bedding coat of compound should be lower in viscosity than fill-coat mixes, and must be wet when the tape is pressed into place. Overly dry material leads to blistering under the tape. Do not apply excessive amounts of bedding compound, as this can cause crowning of the joint. After the tape has been pressed into the bedding coat and leveled, apply a second, thin coat to the top of the tape. This helps to prevent edge curling.

United States Gypsum Company manufactures a number of high-quality joint tapes of both the fiberglass-mesh and paper types. Those typically used by manufactured and modular housing producers are described below.

## SHEETROCK® MH Brand Joint Tape (TUF-TAPE™)



- Specially designed for Industrialized Construction.
- Unique cross-fiber construction provides greater joint strength and crack resistance.
- Designed to provide the maximum amount of cross-joint reinforcement fibers.
- Provides smooth concealment at flat joints.
- Self-adhesive tape goes on quickly—provides smooth finished joints in one or two coats when used with SHEETROCK® MH Brand Joint Compounds.

### Description

SHEETROCK® MH Brand Joint Tape (TUF-TAPE™) is made with a unique cross-fiber construction to provide greater drywall joint strength than conventional fiberglass leno-weave mesh tapes. SHEETROCK MH Brand Joint Tape resists shrinking, tearing, stretching, and distortion. It also resists the joint cracking that can occur when conventional fiberglass mesh tape is used. In reinforcing joints in factory-built drywall interiors, setting-type joint compounds such as SHEETROCK® MH Brand High Early Strength Setting-Type (TUF-SET™ HES), SHEETROCK® MH Brand Setting-Type (TUF-SET™), and SHEETROCK® MH Brand Lightweight Setting-Type (TUF-SET™ Lite) are recommended.

### Advantages

**Unique construction:** SHEETROCK MH Brand Joint Tape's unique cross-fiber construction resists stretching to prevent cracking in drywall joints. SHEETROCK MH Brand Joint Tape is recommended for finishing drywall joints in automated building using both lightweight and high-strength SHEETROCK MH Brand Joint Compounds. Due to its unique construction, this tape must be placed using significant pressure if it is to adhere to the joint. Use of a steel taping knife is recommended for this purpose.

**Fewer coats of joint compound:** Since SHEETROCK MH Brand Joint Tape is self-adhesive, the embedding or taping coat of joint compound necessary with conventional paper tape/drywall joint systems is eliminated. Joint finishing is simpler and quicker. By using SHEETROCK MH Brand High Early Strength Setting-Type (TUF-SET HES), Setting-Type (TUF-SET), or Lightweight Setting-Type (TUF-SET Lite) Joint Compound, joint finishing can be completed within normal production cycles.

**Ideal for patching:** Use SHEETROCK MH Brand Joint Tape to patch small holes and cracks in walls and ceilings.

**Product Data**

**Width:** 1-7/8" (47 mm) or 2-1/2" (63.5 mm).

**Coverage:** Approximately 370 ft./1000 ft.<sup>2</sup> (121.4 m/100 m<sup>2</sup>) gypsum panels.

**Packaging:** The 250 ft. roll is a popular size for hand-application joint treatment. Master cartons contain 20 ea. 250 ft. rolls.

**Storage:** Shelf-life up to nine months under good storage conditions. Store at a minimum temperature of 45 °F (7 °C).

**IMPERIAL® Brand Tape, Type P**



- Thin tape for easy coverage.
- Provides smooth concealment at flat joints.
- Resists cracking.
- Special weave reduces raveling.

**Description**

IMPERIAL® Brand Tape, Type P, is designed to reinforce joints prior to finishing with SHEETROCK MH Brand High Early Strength Setting-Type (TUF-SET™ HES) or SHEETROCK® MH Brand Setting-Type (TUF-SET™) Joint Compounds. It should NOT be used with lightweight compounds such as SHEETROCK® MH Brand Lightweight Setting-Type (TUF-SET™ Lite) or SHEETROCK® Brand Lightweight Setting-Type (EASY SAND™).

IMPERIAL Brand Tape, Type P, has a pressure-sensitive backing for quick, self-stick hand application, saving both installation time and fastener costs.

**Product Data**

**Width:** 2" (50.8 mm) or 2-1/2" (63.5 mm).

**Coverage:** Approximately 370 ft./1000 ft.<sup>2</sup> (121.4 m/100 m<sup>2</sup>) gypsum panels.

**Packaging:** 12 ea. 300 ft. rolls, individually wrapped.

**SHEETROCK® Brand Joint Tape**



- Precreased for easier corner application.
- Resists tearing, stretching, and distortion.
- Wafer-thin paper for easier joint treatment.
- Roughened surface for superior bond.

**Description**

SHEETROCK® Brand Joint Tape is a high-strength paper tape which is lightly precreased for corner application and designed specifically for use with SHEETROCK Setting- or Drying-Type Joint Compounds to provide optimum performance. Its special cross-fibered paper provides high tensile strength, both with and across the paper grain, for joints as strong as the board itself. The tape also possesses wet strength to lie flat and resist tearing under tools. The tape is supplied with a preformed crease in the center. This facilitates finishing of interior angles by allowing the applicator to form a sharp, straight fold in the tape. In addition, paper tape is recommended for use in mechanical taping tools, and is required whenever a drying-type compound will be used to embed the reinforcing tape.

**Product Data**

**Width:** 1-31/32" (50 mm).

**Coverage:** Approximately 370 ft./1000 ft.<sup>2</sup> (121.4 m/100 m<sup>2</sup>) gypsum panels.

**Packaging:** Master cartons contain 24 ea. 75 ft. rolls, 20 ea. 250 ft. rolls, or 10 ea. 500 ft. rolls.

**Trademarks:**

The following trademarks used herein are owned by United States Gypsum Company: EASY SAND, IMPERIAL, SHEETROCK, TUF-SET, AND TUF-TAPE.

**Note:**

Products described here may not be available in all geographic markets. Consult your U.S. Gypsum Company sales office or representative for information.

**Notice:**

We shall not be liable for incidental and consequential damages, directly or indirectly sustained, nor for any loss caused by application of these goods not in accordance with current printed instructions or for other than the intended use. Our liability is expressly limited to replacement of defective goods. Any claim shall be deemed waived unless made in writing to us within thirty (30) days from date it was or reasonably should have been discovered.

**Safety First!**

Follow good safety and industrial hygiene practices during handling and installing all products and systems. Take necessary precautions and wear the appropriate personal protective equipment as needed. Read material safety data sheets and related literature on products before specification and/or installation.