

# Sheetrock® First Coat Primer



**Addresses drywall decorating problems by minimizing surface texture variations**

- Minimizes joint banding and photographing
- Dries to a white finish in under 30 minutes
- Designed for fast, economical application
- Applies with brush, roller, airless or conventional spray

**Description**

Decorating problems (commonly referred to by such names as “joint banding” or “photographing”) are usually caused by differences between the porosities and surface textures of gypsum panel face paper or concrete and the finished joint compound, and are magnified by the use of gloss paints. When viewed in direct, natural lighting under these conditions, the joints and fasteners in decorated walls and ceilings may be visible.

Unlike traditional primer/sealer products, SHEETROCK® brand First Coat primer has been formulated specifically to equalize both porosity and surface texture differences and provide greater uniformity of the finish coat. In contrast to a sealer, First Coat primer does not provide a film that seals the substrate surface. Instead, it minimizes porosity differences by providing a base that equalizes the absorption rate variations between the drywall face paper and the finished joint compound when painted. First Coat primer also provides the proper type and amount of pigments and fillers (lacking in many conventional primers and sealers) to equalize surface texture differences. First Coat primer is not intended as a final coating—it should be overpainted when dry. This versatile primer can be intermixed with wall and ceiling spray textures to enhance hardness, bond and whiteness. Surface priming recommendations on texture bag still apply.

**Limitations**

1. Allow First Coat primer to dry and then apply a quality wall size before applying wallpaper or vinyl wallcovering.
2. During storage protect material from temperature extremes, moisture and free water. Protect from freezing. First Coat primer ages naturally during storage, so failure to rotate stock may produce performance problems.
3. Not intended as a final coating; should be overpainted when dry.

**Directions**

**Surface Preparation**

Surfaces must be dry, clean, sound and free of oil, grease and efflorescence. Glossy surfaces must be dulled. Prime metal with a good rust-inhibitive primer. Fill or level concrete with SHEETROCK® DURABOND® setting-type joint compound or SHEETROCK® EASY SAND™ lightweight setting-type joint compound or COVER COAT® compound. Treat drywall joints and nailheads with a USG joint treatment system.

**Mixing**

Stir gently. Do not thin for brush or roller application. For spray application, if necessary, add water in half-pint increments up to a maximum 1 qt. of water per gallon. NOTE: Overthinning may cause poor adhesion, lack of hide and unequal suction when dry. May be tinted.

**Adding to Wall and Ceiling Textures**

If slightly better spray properties, wet hide, improved bond, whiteness and surface hardness are desired, First Coat primer may be added to wet-mixed USG ceiling and wall texture products at a rate of up to 1 gal. per 30, 32, 40 and 50 lb. bag of texture. Reduce water quantity to account for addition of First Coat primer based on 1:1 replacement basis. Surface priming recommendations on texture bag still apply.

**Application (Walls and Ceilings)**

Apply a full coverage coat. Material dries to touch in under 30 min. under 75 °F/50% R.H. conditions. Maintain minimum air, product mix and surface temperature of 55 °F (13 °C) during application and until surface is dry. Brush, roller, airless or conventional spraygun may be used. If surface is not ideal, backrolling of airless spray applications may be beneficial. Brush—Use a high quality, professional paint brush. Roller—For best results, use a high quality roller with 1/8" to 1/4" nap on smooth and semi-smooth surfaces. For any surface, maximum nap length should not exceed 1/2". Airless spraygun—As a general guideline, use professional equipment that meets or exceeds the following when spraying through 50 ft. of 1/4" i.d. airless spray hose: output at least 3/4 gal. per minute; pressure at least 2700 psi; and accommodates a spray tip of 0.0219 at 2000 psi. For example, recommended equipment includes Graco Ultra® Max II 795 or 1095. Other suitable equipment includes: Titan™ 840 IX, 1140 IX; Spraytech™ EXP 2455, 2555; or PowrTwin™ 6900. Conventional spraygun—Use Binks® Model 2001 gun, pressurized external, with 565 fluid needle, 66 fluid nozzle and 65 PR air nozzle; or Binks Model 18, pressurized internal, with 68 fluid needle, 68 fluid nozzle and 206 air nozzle; or similar equipment. Air hose is typically 3/8" i.d. with 1/2" fluid hose i.d.



**NOTE:** Adjust pressure and material feed rate so a full coverage coat can be achieved by overlapping preceding application with 1/4 to 1/2 of fan width at a distance of 18" from surface. Pressure and material feed rates will vary with hose diameter, height or distance pumped, and paint consistency. First Coat primer contains a high level of select pigments and fillers like conventional latex flat paints. Clogging at the spray gun tip may result when these paints are used in spray equipment previously used to spray PVA sealers which contain high levels of resin. The use of clean or new hoses is recommended to avoid this problem when spraying First Coat primer.

**Cleanup** Clean equipment with warm, soapy water.

**Achieving a "Sand Finish" Texture with SHEETROCK First Coat Primer** By adding a fine perlite aggregate to First Coat primer, a sand-like finish texture can be achieved. Use SHEETROCK® sand finish paint additive or similar product. To begin application, after the surface has been properly prepared for decorating with paint, apply a prime coat of First Coat primer and let dry. Slowly stir in 4 lbs. of sand finish paint additive (or similar fine perlite aggregate) per 5 gal. of First Coat primer. Mix until the sand additive is uniformly dispersed. A full-coverage application is recommended using a Binks Model 18D spray gun using a 57 fluid nozzle with R-27 slotted fan cap, or a Binks Model 18D spray gun using a 57 fluid nozzle with R-27 slotted fan cap, or a Binks Model 18 gun with 68 fluid nozzle and 101 slotted fan cap. Adjust air pressure and material feed rate to compensate for hose length/diameter and consistency of material to be sprayed. Coverage is approximately 100-200 sq. ft. per gal. Surface may be painted after overnight drying; in slow drying conditions, verify that the surface has dried. Follow directions of paint manufacturer. Unpainted surfaces are not washable or scrubable.

**Product Data**

**Color:** White—may be tinted  
**Binder:** Vinyl acrylic  
**Filler:** Calcium carbonate  
**Dilution (water):** Up to 1 qt./gal.  
**pH:** 8.0 to 9.0  
**VOC content:** <30 g/l  
**Drying Time:** Dries to touch in under 30 min. under 75 °F/50% R.H. conditions  
**Coverage:** Up to 300-500 sq. ft./gal.  
**Storage:** Close container after each use. Store in dry place at moderate temperatures. Protect from freezing. Up to 12 month shelf life under good storage conditions. Rotate stock on a first-in, first-out basis.  
**Packaging:** 5 gal. and 1 gal. pails

**Submittal Approvals**

<b>Job Name</b>	
<b>Contractor</b>	<b>Date</b>

**Product Information**  
 See usg.com for the most up-to-date product information.  
**WARNING!**  
 Mist, vapors and/or dust may cause irritation to eyes, skin, nose, throat and upper respiratory tract. Avoid irritation by reducing exposure to mist, vapors and/or dust. Use in a well-ventilated area or provide sufficient local ventilation. If misty/high vapor levels/dusty, wear a NIOSH/MSHA-approved mist, vapor or dust respirator. Wear eye protection. If eye contact occurs, flush thoroughly with water for 15 minutes. If irritation persists, call physician. Wash with soap and water after use. Do not ingest. If ingested, call physician. Do not use if material has spoiled, i.e., there is a moldy appearance or an unpleasant odor.

Close container and discard properly. Prolonged and repeated breathing of respirable mica dust may cause lung disease (pneumoconiosis).  
 Product safety information: 800.507.8899 or usg.com.  
**KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN.**  
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**Safety First!**  
 Follow good safety and industrial hygiene practices during handling and installation of 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.

