

FIBEROCK® AQUA-TOUGH™ Interior Panel

Abuse Resistant



Gypsum fiber panels outperform paper-faced gypsum board in abuse-prone areas

- AQUA-TOUGH™ formulation provides improved moisture resistance
- No face paper to scratch or tear
- Resist denting, breaking and puncturing, even in high-traffic areas
- Provide excellent fire resistance
- Offer an economical alternative to concrete block and plaster construction
- Ideal for institutional, commercial and residential interiors
- Certified, recycled content of 95 percent

Description

FIBEROCK® AQUA-TOUGH™ Interior Panels, AR are engineered to provide increased resistance to moisture, mold, abrasion, indentation and penetration for interior walls and ceilings in demanding construction applications. These gypsum fiber panels are designed to outperform paper-faced gypsum board. Strong, solid and durable, they are approved for use in wet areas, including residential showers and tub surrounds. They also resist denting, breaking and puncturing—even in high-traffic areas. FIBEROCK AQUA-TOUGH Interior Panels, AR are code approved for use in noncombustible construction. They have exceptional surface burning characteristics (ASTM E84, Flame Spread 5, Smoke Developed 0) and fire resistance (ASTM E119). 5/8" FIBEROCK AQUA-TOUGH Interior Panels, AR may be used in lieu of Type X gypsum panels in over 50 fire-rated wall assemblies as listed in the UL Fire Resistance Directory under "Type FRX-G."

Advantages

Abuse Resistant: Engineered to provide increased resistance to abrasion, indentation and penetration, this panel outperforms paper-faced or glass mat-faced panels, with no paper face to tear or scratch.

Water Resistant: Water resistant through the core and suitable for use in wet areas including residential showers and tub surrounds.

Mold Resistant: In independent lab tests per ASTM D3273 "Standard Test Method for Resistance to Growth of Mold on the Surface of Interior Coatings in an Environmental Chamber," FIBEROCK AQUA-TOUGH Interior Panels, AR, earns the highest score, 10.

Fire Resistant: Superior fire resistance and exceptional surface burning characteristics. The 5/8" panel is UL Classified for fire resistance (FRX-G) and listed in more than 50 UL wall designs.

Finishing Flexibility: Features a smooth, paintable surface that can also be finished with ceramic tile.

Environmentally Friendly: Made from 95% recycled materials, this panel has earned independent certification from Scientific Certification Systems (SCS) for this achievement.

Product Data	Sizes and Packaging	Size (thickness x width x length)	Units (pcs.)			
		1/2" x 4' x 8'	30			
		1/2" x 4' x 9'	30			
		1/2" x 4' x 10'	30			
		1/2" x 4' x 12'	30			
		5/8" x 4' x 8'	24			
		5/8" x 4' x 9'	24			
		5/8" x 4' x 10'	24			
	5/8" x 4' x 12'	24				
Technical Data	Property	Unit of Measure	ASTM Test Method	5/8" FIBEROCK	1/2" FIBEROCK	
	Flexural Strength	lbf	C473	> 155	> 110	
	Compressive Strength	psi	n/a	> 500	> 750	
	Nail-Pull Resistance	lb. (0.4" head diameter, dry)	C473	> 145	> 120	
	Weight	psf	C473	3.1	2.4	
	Mold Resistance	—	D3273	10 (no growth)	10 (no growth)	
	Surface Burning Characteristics	flame/smoke	E84	5/0	5/0	
	Thermal	"R"/k value	C518	—	.30/1.84	

Compliance with Standards: Meets ASTM C1278. **Edge Configuration:** Long edges tapered; ends cut square.



Abuse-Resistant Performance

ASTM C1629 Abuse-Resistant Performance

*Abrasion	Level 1
Indentation	Level 1
Soft Body Impact	Level 2
Hard Body Impact	Level 1

*With a standard primer and two coats of finish paint, FIBEROCK AQUA-TOUGH Interior Panels, AR will achieve a level 3 abrasion resistance.

Good Design Practices

1. FIBEROCK AQUA-TOUGH Interior Panels, AR are designed for interior use only.
2. Panels may be attached to wood or steel-stud framing and furring channels.
3. For abuse-resistant or fire-resistant construction, 20-gauge or heavier studs are required.
4. For improved abuse-resistant system performance, SHEETROCK™ Brand Paper Faced Metal Corner Bead and Trim and SHEETROCK® TUFF-HIDE™ primer-surfacer are recommended.
5. Where FIBEROCK systems abut or intersect dissimilar construction or building structural components, isolation techniques, such as caulk and/or slip tracks, are required.
6. Control joints should be spaced at a maximum of 28 ft. on center in walls and above door jambs; 28 ft. on center in ceilings (50 ft. with perimeter relief) and at L-, T- or U-intersections. Location of control joints is the responsibility of the professional/architect.
7. For very high impact resistance, specify FIBEROCK Interior Panel, VHI.
8. Framing members should be straight and true. Studs and joints must be in true alignment; bridging, firestops, etc. must not protrude beyond plane of framing. Due to strength and rigidity of FIBEROCK panels, it may be difficult to compensate for out-of-plane imperfections in framing.

Delivery & Storage of Materials

All materials shall be delivered in their original unopened packages and stored in an enclosed shelter providing protection from damage and exposure to the elements. All materials should be stored flat.

Installation

- A. Position all ends and edges of all gypsum fiber panels over framing members, except when joints are at right angles to framing members, as in perpendicular application or when end joints are back-blocked.
- B. Install panels vertically whenever possible. For horizontal panel application, panels must be gapped 1/16" of an inch. End joints should be loosely fit. Install panels a minimum of 3/8" above the floor. To minimize end joints, use panels of maximum practical lengths. Stagger end joints in successive courses with joints on opposite sides of a partition placed on different studs.
- C. Attach panels to framing supports by: standard single nailing method, double nailing method, or power-driven screws. Space fasteners not less than 3/8" from edges and ends of panels and drive as recommended for specified fastening method. Drive fasteners in field of panels first, working toward ends and edges. Hold panel in firm contact with framing while driving fasteners. Drive fastener heads slightly below surface of gypsum fiber panels in a uniform dimple.
- D. Concealment of joints, fasteners and trims in areas that will be painted: For taping, use SHEETROCK® joint tape with SHEETROCK® DURABOND® setting-type joint compound. For finishing, use SHEETROCK® all purpose joint compound. Do not use PLUS 3® lightweight all purpose or MIDWEIGHT™ joint compounds on FIBEROCK panels. In areas that will be tiled, finish joints with DUROCK™ tile backer tape and latex-fortified mortar or Type I mastic.
- E. For non-fire-rated partition designs, refer to the table below for fastener spacing. For UL fire-rated partition designs, refer to the specific UL design for proper fastener spacing.

Ceilings (Wood- or Steel- Framed)	Thickness	Application	Frame Spacing	Fastener Spacing	
				Nails	Screws
	1/2"	parallel	16" o.c.	7" o.c.	12" o.c.
		perpendicular	16" o.c.	7" o.c.	12" o.c.
	5/8"	parallel	16" o.c.	7" o.c.	12" o.c.
		perpendicular	24" o.c.	7" o.c.	12" o.c.

Walls	Thickness		Frame Spacing*	Fastener Spacing	
				Nails	Screws
	1/2"		24" o.c.	8" o.c.	12" o.c.
			16" o.c.	8" o.c.	16" o.c.
	5/8"		24" o.c.	8" o.c.	12" o.c.
			16" o.c.	8" o.c.	16" o.c.

*16" o.c. recommended for abuse-resistant applications.

- F.** Install trim at all internal and external angles formed by the intersection of either panel surfaces or other surfaces. Apply (metal) (paper-faced) corner bead to all vertical or horizontal external corners in accordance with manufacturer's directions.

Surface Treatment

FIBEROCK panels must be surface treated with one of the options, in accordance with USG recommendations. Option A may be used when surface uniformity is not of concern, (i.e., the surface uniformity stipulation has been waived by the job managerial and/or inspection authorities and conditions described in Option B (below) do not exist.)

Option A

Apply a skim coat* of all purpose joint compound at a trowel-applied consistency to entire surface and let dry. The skim coated surface must be smooth and free of tool marks and ridges (a light sanding of the skim coating may be necessary to remove tool marks). Remove sanding dust from surface, then apply one full coverage coat (5-10 mils WFT) of SHEETROCK® brand First Coat primer to cover surface. Allow surface to dry prior to decorating. Refer to USG Technical Literature: J1095 for more information regarding First Coat primer; J510 for more information on skim coating. Note: A single coverage coat of SHEETROCK TUFF-HIDE primer-surfacer may be used in lieu of a skim coat of SHEETROCK® brand all purpose joint compound and the application of SHEETROCK First Coat primer. Refer to USG Technical Literature J1613 and J1810 for more information regarding TUFF-HIDE primer-surfacer benefits and application.

Option B

Recommended in areas where one or more of the following conditions exist: 1) Exposure to critical/severe lighting; 2) Paints with sheen levels other than flat are specified; 3) High value spaces exist; 4) Final surface smoothness and uniformity are expected and/or specified. Apply two separate skim coats* of all purpose joint compound at a trowel-applied consistency to entire surface and let dry. The skim coated surface must be smooth and free of tool marks and ridges (a light sanding of the skim coating may be necessary to remove tool marks). Remove sanding dust from surface, then apply one full coverage coat (5-10 mils WFT) of SHEETROCK First Coat primer to cover surface. Allow surface to dry prior to decorating. Refer to USG Technical Literature: J1095 for more information regarding First Coat primer; J510 for more information on skim coating. Note: SHEETROCK TUFF-HIDE primer-surfacer may be used in lieu of a second skim coat of SHEETROCK all purpose joint compound and the application of SHEETROCK First Coat primer. Refer to USG Technical Literature J1613 and J1810 for more information regarding TUFF-HIDE primer-surfacer benefits and application.

*When applying a skim coat, use only SHEETROCK all purpose joint compound – DO NOT use PLUS 3® lightweight all purpose or MIDWEIGHT™ joint compounds on FIBEROCK panels.

Veneer Plaster

Joints should be treated with SHEETROCK joint tape and SHEETROCK setting-type joint compound (DURABOND or EASY SAND™). Joint surfaces must be treated with a separate coat of joint compound to fully conceal the paper tape. When the joint is completely dry, treat entire wall surface with USG plaster bonder according to application directions. Then apply DIAMOND® Brand Veneer Basecoat Plaster from 1/16" to 3/32" thickness using a scratch and double-back technique. This is accomplished by applying a light, thin coat over the entire area, and immediately doubling back with plaster from the same batch to achieve full thickness. When basecoat plaster is firm, broom the surface to leave it rough and open for finish. With basecoat set and partially dry, apply IMPERIAL® Brand Finish Plaster using a scratch and double-back technique. Complete finishing when material is firm. Leave finished surface smooth and dense for decorating. Refer to USG System Folder SA920 for complete plaster recommendations.

Ceramic Tile Applications

FIBEROCK AQUA-TOUGH™ Interior Panels, AR are acceptable for use as a ceramic tile backer. Refer to the TCNA Handbook for specific system and finishing requirements.

Limitations

1. FIBEROCK AQUA-TOUGH™ Interior Panels, AR are designed for interior use only and should not be used in exterior applications.
2. Panels should not be exposed to sustained temperatures in excess of 125 °F (51.6 °C).
3. For fire-resistant or abuse-resistant construction over steel framing, a minimum of 20-gauge steel framing is required.

**Submittal
Approvals:**

Job Name	
Contractor	Date

Product Information

See usg.com for the most up-to-date product information.

Trademarks

The following trademarks used herein are owned by United States Gypsum Company or its related companies: AQUA-TOUGH, DIAMOND, DURABOND, DUROCK, EASY SAND, FIBEROCK, IMPERIAL, MIDWEIGHT, PLUS 3, SHEETROCK, TUFF-HIDE, USG, USG in stylized letters.

Note

Products described here may not be available in all geographic markets. Consult your United States 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.



Manufactured by
United States Gypsum Company
550 West Adams Street
Chicago, IL 60661

800 USG.4YOU (874-4968)
usg.com

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