



Painting Paperless Drywall

A fairly new building material emerging on today's market is paperless glass mat gypsum panels such as DensArmor® and DensArmor Plus®† panels manufactured by Georgia-Pacific Gypsum. They feature a glass mat surface on both the front and back of the panel resulting in the best interior protection from moisture currently available in a gypsum panel. The paperless design also eliminates a potential food source for mold thus providing increased mold resistance compared to standard paper faced wallboard. The moisture resistant glass mats make these panels an ideal replacement for paper faced greenboard. Additionally, the paperless design and increased moisture resistance may reduce remediation and scheduling delays associated with paper faced drywall.

What Should Be Considered When Painting Paperless Drywall?

While installation and finishing of paperless glass mat panels is nearly identical to that of normal paper faced wallboard, this paperless drywall requires special consideration when painting. The surface profile of the glass mat facing is much greater than that of normal paper. This increased surface profile requires more paint to achieve a smooth, uniform finish and to help prevent flashing over tape joints, etc.

What is the Best Recommendation for Painting Paperless Drywall?

As mentioned above the greater surface profile presented by the glass mat surface requires more paint to achieve a smooth, uniform finish. This makes **3210 GRIPPER® Interior/Exterior Primer Sealer** an excellent choice as a primer for paperless drywall. The higher solids content and film build of **3210 GRIPPER Interior/Exterior Primer Sealer** helps to fill and seal the surface and provides a smooth, uniform surface for painting. **3210 GRIPPER Interior/Exterior Primer Sealer** also contains a mildewcide. This combined with the mold resistance of the paperless glass mat panels would provide the most mildew resistant† wallboard surface of its type available.

Other **GLIDDEN PROFESSIONAL™** primers that also work well on paperless drywall are the **1070 Fill & Seal Primer Sealer** and **1040 Fill & Seal High Build Surfacer Interior Primer Sealer**. Both of these primers were specifically designed to fill and seal the texture variations between gypsum board and tape joints helping to equalize any rough, uneven or minor surface imperfections found in new construction. These high build fill and seal features also provide a good base for painting over paperless drywall.

Following these recommendations will provide customers a solution with satisfactory results over this substrate, if it is encountered on a job.

† DensArmor® and DensArmor Plus® panels are mold resistant when tested as manufactured per ASTM D 3273. The Georgia-Pacific logo and all trademarks are owned by or licensed to Georgia-Pacific Gypsum LLC.

† GRIPPER primer is treated with an agent that prevents the growth of mildew on the surface of the dried paint film.