

TECHNICAL SERVICES BULLETIN

REPAIRING DAMAGE/DEFECTS IN THE 2 ½ HOUR ME AREA SEPARATION FIREWALL SYSTEM

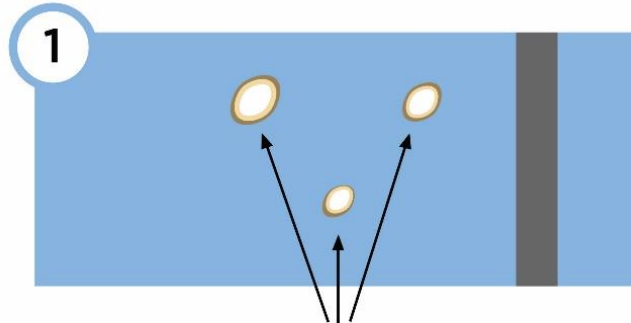
The 2 ½ hour fire rated ME Area Separation Firewall System was released to the industry in March 2022 as a way to isolate sound and protect from fire two (2) separate living units in townhomes, twin homes, duplexes, condominiums and apartments. At times during the installation of the ME ASF system, mistakes are made or damage occurs to this assembly, and for that reason American Gypsum performed a full scale fire test per ASTM E119, with repairs to defects in this wall system. (Report - WFCi 21080)

Below is one of the defects that was built into American Gypsum's ME Area Separation Firewall System (UL design V344), and if needed how to successfully repair it in the field to ensure that the 2 ½ hour fire rating is preserved.

DAMAGE OR DEFECT:	DAMAGE TO FACE/BACK OF 1/2" M-BLOC® EKCEL® TYPE X with MOLD & MOISTURE RESISTANCE
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ISSUE: After the ME Area Separation Firewall System is installed, damage can occur to the face or back of the 1/2" M-Bloc Ekcel Type X wallboard panels. This damage can be caused by falling lumber, hammers, carts, etc., and while not fracturing or penetrating these panels, this damage can be up to 1/4" to 3/8" in depth.

REPAIR: Fire testing demonstrated that no repair is required to repair indentations or damage to the face/back of the 1/2" M-Bloc Ekcel Type X wallboard panels (maximum 1/4" to 3/8" in depth).



**No repairs needed for indentations
or damage to face/back of the 1/2"
M-Bloc Ekcel Type X wallboard panels**