

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)

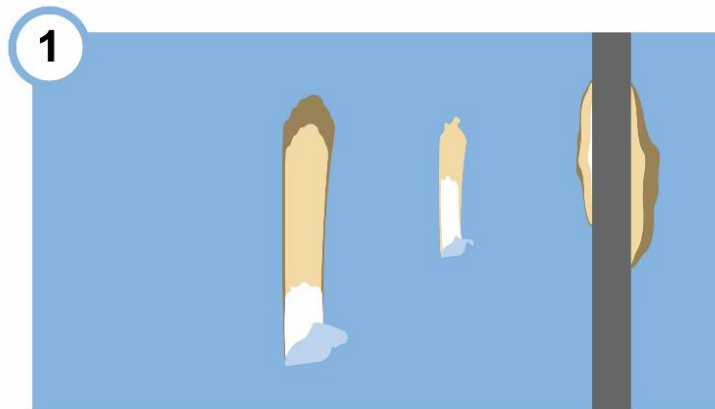
Below is one of the defects that was built into American Gypsum's ME Area Separation Firewall System (UL design V344), and if needed how to successfully repair it in the field to ensure that the 2 ½ hour fire rating is preserved.

DAMAGE OR DEFECT:	DENTS/DINGS/SCRAPES TO FACE OF 1/2" M-BLOC® EKCEL® TYPE X with MOLD & MOISTURE RESISTANCE
--------------------------	--

ISSUE: Either during or after the ME Area Separation Firewall System is installed, it is not unusual that the 1/2" M-Bloc Ekcel Type X wallboard panels can sustain dents, dings, scrapes and some face paper may be missing.

REPAIR:

- The purpose of the face paper surrounding the 1/2" M-Bloc Ekcel Type X wallboard panels is to hold the gypsum slurry together during the manufacturing process.
- And during a fire or fire testing, the face or back paper burns off within the first few minutes.
- The depth of the "dents & dings" inflicted on the 1/2" M-Bloc Ekcel Type X wallboard panels for the purpose of the full scale fire test for this report, varied between 1/4" to 3/8".
- Fire testing demonstrated that no repair is required to the dents, dings or scraped/torn paper of 1/2" M-Bloc Ekcel Type X wallboard panels to maintain the 2 ½ hour fire rating of this system.



No repairs needed to ripped, torn, scrapped or missing paper on the 1/2" M-Bloc Ekcel Type X wallboard panels