

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:	NAILS DRIVEN THROUGH 1/2" M-BLOC® EKCEL® TYPE X with MOLD & MOISTURE RESISTANCE
--------------------------	--

ISSUE: Contractors have been known to drive or insert up to 16d nails into the 1/2" M-Bloc Ekcel Type X wallboard with Mold & Moisture Resistance when installing the ME Area Separation Firewall System. This practice voids the 2 ½ hour fire rating.

- REPAIR:**
- Remove the nails from the M-Bloc Ekcel Type X wallboard panels
 - Fill holes with 3M Fire Barrier Sealant CP 25 WB+ fire caulk (both sides of the wall where applicable)
 - Smooth out fire caulking with putty knife or like tool

