



American Gypsum  
 3811 Turtle Creek Blvd., #1200  
 Dallas, TX 75219  
 214-530-5500  
 www.americangypsum.com

Technical Information  
 1-800-545-6302 ext. 5607

# AquaBloc<sup>®</sup> Gypsum Wallboard

## DESCRIPTION

AquaBloc<sup>®</sup> gypsum wallboard is a specially processed product, intended to provide a moisture resistant base for the adhesive application of ceramic or plastic tile and plastic-faced wall panels in limited wet areas, e.g., bathrooms, powder rooms, kitchens, laundry, and utility rooms. AquaBloc is manufactured using a 100% recycled green face paper, treated to resist moisture; a water-resistant gypsum core, and a sturdy liner back paper also treated to resist moisture. (The water-resistant face paper is tinted green so as to make it easily distinguishable from traditional wallboard) The face paper is folded around the long edges to reinforce and protect the core, with the ends being square-cut and finished smooth. Long edges of the panels are tapered so joints can be treated in a normal manner where AquaBloc extends beyond the tiled area.



AquaBloc is available in: 1/2" panels available with a non-rated moisture resistant core and a 5/8" FireBloc (Type X) moisture resistant core for use in fire-rated assemblies.

AquaBloc gypsum wallboard has attained the GREENGUARD Indoor Air Quality Certified<sup>®</sup> Status and GREENGUARD Children & Schools Indoor Air Quality Certified<sup>®</sup> status. Products manufactured by American Gypsum contain no asbestos.

## BASIC USES

AquaBloc gypsum wallboard was designed to provide a moisture resistant base for the adhesive application of ceramic or plastic tile in limited wet areas, e.g., bathrooms, kitchens, laundry, and utility rooms. This panel may be extended beyond the area to be tiled, and finished with traditional joint treatment finishes. AquaBloc gypsum wallboard is designed for direct attachment by screws and or nails to wood framing, screws to metal framing and can be used in fire rated assemblies.

With joints covered, AquaBloc gypsum wallboard will resist the passage of smoke. For additional information on smoke barriers, refer to Gypsum Association publication, "Building and Inspecting Smoke Barriers" (GA-618), which can be found at [www.americangypsum.com](http://www.americangypsum.com) under "Technical Data" - click on Gypsum Association Literature.

## LIMITATIONS

AquaBloc gypsum wallboard is intended for interior applications only.

Avoid exposure to temperatures exceeding 125°F (52°C), e.g., located adjacent to wood burning stoves and or heating appliances.

Not to be used in areas with direct exposure to water or continuous high humidity, e.g., saunas, steam rooms, gang showers or indoor swimming pools.

Avoid excessive or continuous exposure to moisture during delivery, storage, handling and installation. Eliminate sources of moisture immediately.

AquaBloc gypsum wallboard is a nonstructural product and should not be used as a nailing base.

Not to be used in exterior ceiling applications. Exterior Soffit wallboard (ASTM C 1396) is recommended for protected exterior ceilings structures.

When applied to ceilings, the framing must be spaced no more than 12"o/c when using 1/2" AquaBloc and 16"o/c for 5/8" AquaBloc.

Spacing of wall framing should not exceed 24"o/c.

Resilient channels are not recommended where tile or similar finish is to be applied to AquaBloc.

AquaBloc gypsum wallboard that is to receive tile or other surfacing which may act as a vapor retarder shall not have a vapor retarder placed behind the panel. A single layer of asphalt impregnated felt, #15 or less, applied as part of the wall system, shall not be considered a vapor retarder.

On wall applications, maintain a gap of 1/4" between the bottom edges or ends of the panels and floors, or any other horizontal surface where water could accumulate.

Gypsum board adhesively applied to framing members shall not be used as a base to receive tile.

## STORAGE AND HANDLING

Gypsum board does not generate or support the growth of mold when it is properly transported, stored, handled, installed, and maintained. However, mold spores are present everywhere and when conditions are favorable; mold can grow on practically any surface. GYPSUM BOARD MUST BE KEPT DRY to prevent the growth of mold.

Gypsum board must be stored in an area that protects it from adverse weather conditions, condensation, and other forms of moisture. Job site conditions that can expose gypsum board to water or moisture must be avoided. Gypsum board must be protected during transit with a weather-tight cover in good condition. Plastic shipping bags are intended to provide protection during transit only and must be promptly removed upon arrival of the load. Failure to remove the shipping bag can increase the likelihood of developing conditions favorable to the growth of mold.

Gypsum board that has visible mold growth must not be used. For additional information, refer to Gypsum Association publication, "Guidelines for the Prevention of Mold Growth on Gypsum Wallboard" (GA-238).

Gypsum board must be stored off the ground and under protective cover. Sufficient risers must be used to assure support for the entire length of the wallboard to prevent sagging.

**STORAGE & HANDLING**

Gypsum board must be delivered to the job site as near to the time it will be used as possible. Individuals delivering gypsum board to jobsites should ensure that it is carried, not dragged, to place of storage/installation to prevent damage to finished edges.

Gypsum board shall always be stacked flat - NEVER on edge or end. Gypsum board stacked on edge or end is unstable and presents a serious hazard should it accidentally topple. Gypsum board should be placed so weight is evenly distributed and the floor is not overloaded.

**GOOD BUILDING PRACTICES**

**Installation** - The building temperature shall be maintained at not less than 50°F (10°C) for adhesive application of gypsum board, during joint treatment, texturing, and decoration. When a temporary heat source is used the temperature shall not be more than 95°F (35°C) in any given room or area. Adequate and continuous ventilation shall be provided in the working area during the installation and the drying or curing period.

The design professional has the ultimate responsibility for location of control joints.

No blocking is required when studs are spaced 16"o/c. When studs exceed 16"o/c, locate one row of blocking approximately 1" above the top of the tub or shower receptor and at gypsum board horizontal joints in areas to receive tile. Blocking shall be provided at all interior corners. Fasten AquaBloc to framing members with nails or screws spaced a maximum of 8"o/c.

Tile adhesive for the application of tile or like material applied to AquaBloc shall be water resistant and must meet the requirements of ANSI A136.1, Type 1, or as specified by the surfacing material manufacturer. Using a water resistant tile adhesive, caulk all corners and openings before application of tile or like material. All nail and or screws heads that are to be decorated with tile or like material shall be covered with the same tile adhesive (ANSI A136.1, Type 1).

Do not apply drywall joint compound to the joints or fasteners that are to be tiled. All joints beyond the area to be tiled may be treated in a conventional manner using tape and drywall joint compound.

Regular gypsum board shall be permitted to be used as a base for tile in dry areas.

**Decoration** - For areas outside of the tiled areas, the design professional, contractor and or owner shall review Gypsum Association's bulletin GA-214, "Recommended Levels of Gypsum Board Finish", in order to specify the proper level of drywall finishing needed to assure the desired results.

For best painting results in areas outside of the tiled areas, all surfaces, including joint compound, should be clean, dust-free and not glossy. To equalize the porosities between the face paper and joint compound and improve fastener and joint concealment, the surface shall be primed and sealed with a full-bodied drywall primer before texturing or final decoration. The selection of the proper paint to give the specified or desired finished characteristics is the responsibility of the design professional, contractor and or owner.

Gypsum board that is to have a wall covering applied to it should be prepared and primed as described for painting.

**APPLICABLE STANDARDS**

<b>Water Absorption</b>	<5% (ASTM 1396)
<b>Manufacturing</b>	ASTM C 1396 section 7 (C 630) Federal Specification SS-L-30D Type VII (1/2" non-rated moisture resistant core) Federal Specification SS-L-30D Type VII Grade X (5/8" Type X moisture resistant core)
<b>Installation</b>	ASTM C 840 Gypsum Association GA-216
<b>Surface Burning Characteristics</b>	ASTM E 84 Flame Spread 15 Smoke Developed 0

**PRODUCT DATA****SIZES**

Thickness	Widths	Lengths	Edge Type	UL Type
1/2" (12.7mm)	4' (1219mm)	8' - 12' (2438mm - 3658mm)	Tapered	
5/8" (15.9mm)	4' (1219mm)	8' - 12' (2438mm - 3658mm)	Tapered	AGX-1, AGX-11

Special lengths or edges may be available on special order. Consult your American Gypsum sales representative for details.

<b>Thermal Resistance "R" Value</b>	1/2" = 0.45 5/8" = 0.48
-------------------------------------	----------------------------

**FIRE RESISTANCE RATINGS**

Fire rated assemblies are specified from tests performed by independent laboratories. These designs are made up of specific materials in a precise configuration. When choosing construction details to meet certain fire resistance requirements, care must be taken to insure that each component of the selected assembly is the one specified in the test and are assembled in accordance with the requirements of the design.

**SUBMITTAL APPROVALS**

Job Name:

---

Contractor:

---

Date:

---