



# Municipality of Anchorage

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## Handout A.01

### Gypsum Board Application and Finishing

General Information Only  
Installation must comply with Chapter 25, 2006 IBC

#### APPLICATION OF GYPSUM BOARD

1. **Methods of Cutting and Installation.** Gypsum boards may be cut by scoring and breaking or by sawing, working from face paper side. When scoring, use a sharp knife to cut through the face paper into gypsum core. Gypsum board is then snapped back away from cut face. Back paper should be broken by snapping gypsum board in reverse direction, or preferably by cutting back paper. All cut edges and ends of gypsum boards should be smoothed where necessary to obtain neat fitting joints when gypsum board is installed. Holes for pipes, fixtures or other small openings should be scored on face and back in outline before removal of cut-out with a saw or special tool designed for this use. Where gypsum board meets projecting surfaces, it should be scribed and neatly cut.
  - 1.1 In general, gypsum board should be applied first to ceilings and then to walls.
  - 1.2 **Fasteners.** When used at edges or ends, should be spaced not less than 3/8 inch (9.5 mm) from edges and ends of gypsum board. Fasteners used at edges or at board ends in horizontal application should not be more than 1 inch (25.4 mm) from edges or ends except when floating angle method is used. Perimeter fastening into partition plate or sole at top and bottom is not required or recommended except where fire rating, structural performance or other special conditions require such fastenings. While driving fasteners, gypsum board should be held in firm contact with underlying support. Application of fasteners proceeds from center of field of gypsum board toward ends and edges.
  - 1.3 Nails should be driven so that heads are slightly below surface of gypsum board. Care should be taken to avoid damage to face and core of board, such as breaking surface paper.
  - 1.4 Screws should be driven so that screwheads are slightly below gypsum board surface without breaking surface paper.
  - 1.5 Staples should be driven with crown parallel to framing members. Staples should be driven in such a manner that crown bears tightly against gypsum board in a two ply system.

**NOTE:** Staple attachment is restricted to first ply only of gypsum board in a two ply system.

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Ron Thompson, Building Official  
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