

Name:
Morning/Afternoon

Basic Carpentry

Coop Tech
Canarsie HS Campus
Mr. Pross

Dry Wall

Aim: What is drywall and what is it used for in construction?

What is Dry Wall?

Drywall is a panel made of **gypsum** plaster sandwiched between thick paper. It is used in the construction of interior walls and ceilings as a replacement for the traditional lath and plaster method. Other names for drywall panels are plasterboard, wallboard, gypsum board, and Sheetrock.

What is Sheetrock?

Sheetrock is a **brand of drywall**, though because of its popularity, the term has come to be used interchangeably with drywall. Sheetrock is also used as a replacement for lath and plaster in the construction of interior ceilings and walls, though some Sheetrock is weatherproofed for exterior ceilings. Only the U.S. Gypsum Company may market their drywall as Sheetrock. However, other companies that make drywall are: National Gypsum Company, Titan Commercial Products, and Allied Manufacturing.

Manufacturing: How is drywall made?

Drywall consists of a core of gypsum plaster pressed between two thick sheets of paper. The gypsum plaster core is made out of fiber, a foaming agent, finely ground gypsum crystal and additives. To make drywall, the wet gypsum core gets sandwiched between heavy paper or fiberglass mats.

What are the different types of drywall?

Drywall comes in several different types. Standard panels can come in 1/4-inch to 3/4-inch thickness. The most common dimension of a panel of drywall is 4' x 8', but they are also produce in 4' x 12' sizes. **Fire-resistant** drywall features additives to increase its ability to withstand a fire. **Greenboard** features green paper, to which an oil-based additive is used to provide **moisture resistance**. Similarly, **blueboard** utilizes additives that make the paper both water and mold resistant. **Cement board** is even more water resistant; mold-resistant drywall has no paper. Soundboard uses wood fibers to increase sound transmission while soundproof drywall uses damping materials to decrease sound transmission. **Enviroboard** is made from recycled agricultural materials.

Construction Techniques

Both drywall and Sheetrock are used with the same basic techniques. Construction workers **cut the panel to size**, usually by scoring the paper and breaking the core manually. The sized panels are fixed to wall studs or ceiling joists with nails, glue, drywall screws or drywall fasteners. The remaining seams are concealed using a joint compound filler and tape, most commonly known as "tape and spackle." In some cases, the drywall then gets further sealed with veneer plaster. The last stage in installing sheetrock requires "wall finishing." During this stage the sheetrock and spackle are sanded and lastly painted.

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Vocabulary

Gypsum: A very common mineral.

Resistant: To withstand or oppose.

Panel: A distinct portion, section, or division of a wall.

Fill in the Graphic Organizer as you complete the reading:

What is dry wall?

- In your own words, describe what dry wall is.
- What is it used for in construction?
- What is the difference between drywall and Sheetrock?

What are the different types of drywall?

- In your own words, describe some of the different types of drywall that are made.
- What are the different uses of drywall in construction?

Construction Techniques

- In your own words, describe how drywall is cut and installed?
- How is it fastened to studs?
- What are the steps necessary for "finishing" drywall?