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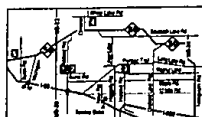
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How to install wall board

AP... In most homes, walls made of lath and plaster have become a thing of the past.

Wallboard, also known as plasterboard, gypsum board or drywall, has largely taken their place. Wallboard panels are easier, faster and more economical to install. And it's a project many do-it-yourselfers handle themselves, but if you're new at it, be sure to have some friends around to help you move the heavy panels.

Here are some tips on buying and installing wallboard:

Materials

Wallboard has a central core of gypsum with a smooth finished side of cream-colored paper and a backing of kraft paper. A thickness of one-half-inch is used in most residential construction, but three-eighths-inch and five-eighths-inch thicknesses are also standard.

Panel commonly measure 4 feet by 8 feet but 10-foot lengths are widely available and you can order panels up to 16 feet long. Water-resistant panels should be used for a kitchen or bath. Many buildings require special fire-resistant five-eighths-inch sheets on some walls. Check with your local building department.

The tools typically used to install wallboard include a crownhead (slightly rounded head) hammer, 4-inch and 10-inch flat-bladed tapping knives for finishing joints, and an angled tool for finishing corners. Materials usually needed

include special wallboard nails, joint compound and tape and metal corner beads for corners that project outward.

Preparation

Before putting up new wallboard, take photos of the wall construction, including plumbing and electrical lines. Later, when you need to know what's in there, you'll have a record. Shoot the picture as straight-on as possible and include a stretched-out tape measure.

Plasterboard edges are usually tapered. When you put two panels side by side, the edges form a recess for the joint compound and tape. The short ends of the panels are not tapered. It's hard to hide a joint when you butt two panel ends together. Keep such joints to a minimum and stagger them to avoid forming a long, noticeable seam. Never join an end to a tapered edge. Make sure that each joint falls along a joist or a stud and that each panel receives support at corners and regular intervals.

Installation

In a room with standard 8-foot ceilings, install wallboard horizontally, using sheets with lengths of 10 or 12 feet or longer. Horizontal joints are easier to tape, and the long panels reduce the number of vertical joints; often the panels can span from wall to wall.

Start installing panels at the top of the wall. Put a couple of large nails in the studs under each panel for temporary support. Then work across the wall. When installing the

lower tier, make sure any vertical seams are staggered; start with a half-sheet if necessary.

Don't put a joint along a window or door edge; settling and frame shrinkage can cause cracks along the joint above and below the frame. Try to cover the door or window area with a panel, then cut out the opening. A joint midway along a door or window frame is acceptable.

When driving nails into wallboard, the trick is to set the nail head just below the surface so that it can be hidden with compound. If you drive it too deep, it breaks the paper or crushes the wallboard. A faster way to attach wallboard is to use drywall screws and drive them in with a screwdriver bit on an electric drill. Sink the screwhead just below the surface, too.

Put up wallboard with panel adhesive and you'll eliminate about half the fasteners. Apply adhesive to each stud with a caulking gun. Then press the wallboard into place and secure it with drywall nails or screws around the edges and once in the center. Follow all safety warnings on the adhesive; it's highly inflammable.

A quick way to mark an electrical outlet's position on wallboard is to "smooch" it. Cut the edges of the box with lipstick and press the wallboard into place. Then remove the panel and cut along the "kiss marks" on the back.

By Reader's Digest Books For AP
Special Features

**Seamless siding
changes industry**

The concept of seamless gutters had people wondering. If rolls of coil could be formed into a gutter, could the coil be formed into siding as well?

Obviously, the answer was yes, and the industry has not been the same since ABC Seamless made the commitment to revolutionize the siding industry.

ABC Seamless set out to be the leader, the innovator, the ones always at the forefront of the industry, and the company everyone else tries to copy.

They did not want to be like the "normal" siding company, putting anywhere from 150-200 splices and seams on a house.

Homeowners were ecstatic with the crisp, clean look of ABC Seamless. They did not understand how steel siding could be installed on a house without any laps or gaps everyone else was offering.

The uniqueness of seamless siding lies in the process of how it is manufactured.

ABC Seamless brings the siding factory right to your house. Each panel is measured, formed and cut to fit your house.

You will have the best of both worlds with ABC Seamless. You get the strength and stability of steel siding, plus you'll have a virtually maintenance free exterior. As the demand for seamless siding became stronger, ABC Seamless decided to become the first company ever to franchise the seamless method.

The first franchise was sold in 1978, and today ABC Seamless has more than 140 franchises in 38 states, making it the world's largest seamless siding company.

ABC Seamless steel siding has a protective polyvinyl chloride (PVC) coating with high quality resins that are baked onto the steel at temperatures of more than 600 degrees Fahrenheit.

The finish will give your house the freshly painted look year after year, without ever picking up a paint brush. You'll have more time to do the things you want to do! Whether retrofit, new construction, or commercial projects, ABC Seamless steel siding will make your house or business look great.

More information from the National Franchise Headquarters is available by writing to ABC Seamless, 3001 Fieschner Drive, Fargo, ND 58103 or by calling 701 293 6952.

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