



Drywall Installation Best Practices

(Updated May 2017)

Preliminary Job Start up

- Foreman and Project Manager - Review plans & Specs.
- Foreman - Review MEP and if applicable BIM coordinated drawings for obstructions to hanging.
- Foreman - Review Budget and actual production rates from Estimator field report or OST job cost summary. Assume a 10% savings when establishing goals.
- Project Manager with Foreman- Create directional stud layout plan for drywall one siding application with OST.
- Project Manager with Foreman - Create Optimal Board length plan for walls, ceilings, and top-out. Decide on where to lie down or stand up drywall on walls.
- Project Manager / Foreman - Create one-siding stocking plan.
- Project Manager / Foreman - Create double up of walls and ceiling stocking plan.
- Use budget sheet worksheet sq ft of 421, 422 & 425 codes to determine total amount of drywall needed for each code.
 - Review size of drywall that works best with minimal waste.
 - Example 421 = 12,118 total sq ft (12,118 / 40sqft (10ft x 4ft) = 303 sheets.
 - Order ½ = 152 sheets for 1 side drywall.
 - If we determine that we are going to be short or over on our 1 side drywall we can make the final adjustments to the final order. This is a good practice on special projects and prevents you from over ordering or possibly running short and having an additional delivery which in turn would cost more money. (Would also red flag why we are going over on labor if for some reason we end up ordering more drywall than was budgeted).
- Create UL screw spacing requirements cheat sheet for one layer, two layer and special boards using ASTM C 840 to minimize the number of screws while ensuring that the drywall is screwed off properly.
- Establish sheet counts per room/area/ floor to relay to workers if possible stock areas using the correct board (this will help monitor production).
 - Establish production rate cheat sheet for crews.
- Establish equipment list required. Types of screw guns, walk ups, board dollies and trash buggies.
- Establish Drywall production rate monitoring method.
- Establish trash removal plan if possible include or run the plan by the GC this will help in pushing our plan with other trades and activities.
 - Establish trash bin location.

- Trash Chutes?
- Trash Buggies sizing?
- Man-lift access?
- After hours to do clean up or split shift?
- Establish Drywall project specific QC sheets, if required over standardized Raymond QC sheets.
- Mandatory drywall kick-off meeting prior to Start-up of Drywall.

Sound Caulking Top of Wall Best Practices

- Taping needs to be done first at finish walls.
- Pecora sound caulking is felt to be best product, application, no shrinkage or pinholes later at exposed areas. 32oz. tubes are about \$10 each. Only where stuff and spray CP572 is unacceptable. Must cut drywall into flutes.
- Hilti foam sound caulking is good at concealed areas. Has only 8% movement and will not work on deflection walls.
- USG seems to be the most cost effective at bottom of walls. Sound caulk at bottom track prior to hanging. Hang drywall down to floor/slab with no gap at bottom. Double check site specific requirements as more and more a 3/8" – 1/2" is being added to most contract literature and plans.
- Caulking at base per manufacturer's installation specifications to be submitted as qualification in bid documents as well as project submittals.
- Hilti CP572 sound and smoke barrier for top of wall spray sound caulking. Has data for deflection and drift. Can be used in concealed and exposed areas. Do not need to cut drywall into flutes.

Drywall Best Practices

- Drywall hangers need to carry shims to wedge board at concrete that is not level.
- Hardhat lights required for all hangers. Helps in closets, rooms, etc.
- Smaller gang boxes for hanging crews in areas where they are working. Cuts down on roll out and roll up times.
- Utilize walk ups instead of ladders where possible.
- Special cut board lengths and widths can cut down on tape joints as well as debris. Keep in mind that special cut board may have longer lead times as well as minimum amounts to place special order.
- Letter sent on floors out of level tolerance. Cost impact letter similar to HM door frames missing.
- Color code wall framing by wall type after framing. After framing spray paint studs for one siding, double up as well as fire and sound rating so hangers can follow your hanging plan.
- Refuse to hang areas that are not complete and ready to hang per schedule. **Consult with your Project Manager / General Superintendent prior to informing GC of this. Project Manager to send letter with possible cost impacts if Raymond is directed to proceed in this case.**

- Project Manager to send cost impact letter for loose ends prior to one siding or double up. Cost impact letter similar to HM door frames missing cost impact letter.
- Setting top out drywall at correct height off floor/ceiling framing height so as not to impact hanging below top out.
- Only pin slammer studs at bottom track. Only screw slammer studs at inside corner on bottom. Do not screw tops of slammer studs as this slows hangers down. Ceiling framing crews are not to screw ceiling tracks to slammer studs.
- Install Framing headers over shorter span windows and door frames 1" above top of frame. Allows drywall hanger to slide drywall in easier when hanging into frames.
- Stock floors and mark quantities on each stack of drywall. Assign crews to use up stacks so they know how much they are hanging.
- Interact with your drywall crews daily. Ask how much they have hung so far that day. Ask how they are hanging the area. Ask what they need to do a better job. Etc.
- Line your crew out for the next task so they know where they are going. This helps to set their goal to get to the next task. And ask production leaders in the crew if there is anything that will help them have better quality and or production.
- Goal set areas for crew to be done on a weekly basis. Gives them long term goals to achieve and easier for foreman to monitor.
- Count sheets daily on floors to monitor daily production rates.
- Incentivize crews with Raymond items. They appreciate and feel part of the company then by having company Logo around. Have more buy in and item personal impact lasts longer than giving out small gift cards which they spend on coffee
 - Raymond Coffee cups
 - Raymond T shirts
 - Raymond Ball caps
 - Raymond lunch cooler