Gypsum Association offers tips for winter months

When the temperature drops, so can the quality of work including the use of gypsum wallboard

The Gypsum Association has compiled a single-page publication concerning the problems one can encounter with the installation of gypsum wallboard products during winter months.

The publication presents a series of recommendations for avoiding difficulties which can be encountered when using gypsum wallboard in cold and damp weather conditions. Included are comments on board and joint treatment, ventilation, taping and finishing, prevention of show-through and spray texturing of ceilings.

The association points out “Cold and damp weather conditions are a major or contributing cause of joint compound bond failures, delayed shrinkage, beading, nail popping, joint show-through and board sagging.” Its publication offers recommendations that when observed minimize the problems of winter applications:

• “Board and joint treatment should never be applied to surfaces that are cold or damp. Provide heat as necessary to maintain a temperature of at least 50 degrees F (10 degrees C) but not in excess of 70 degrees F (21 degrees C) for 24 hours prior to; during application of boards and joint treatment and/or texture and for at least four days thereafter. When temporary heating is used, precautions should be taken to avoid concentrations of heat and overheating.”

• “Provide suitable ventilation to ensure normal drying conditions. (Note: Temporary heat may cause unusually high humidity conditions.)”

• “Taping or finishing should not be done until the interior temperature has been maintained at a minimum of 50 degrees F for 24 hours and the boards are completely dry. Finishing and texturing should not be started until previous applications are completely dry. Ready mixed joint compounds and textures should be protected against freezing in storage.”

• “To prevent show-through, a vinyl sealer should be applied prior to decoration. Be certain the primer-sealer applied is thoroughly dry before decorating. This may be 36 to 48 hours when the weather is cool and damp. Setting compounds, because of their characteristics, can be helpful in combating many cold weather problems. Setting type compounds should not be applied at temperatures below 45 degrees F.”

• “When the ceiling is to be spray textured, it is important to use the proper thickness of wallboard to avoid sagging. 5/8” thick board should be used when ceiling framing exceeds 16” o.c.”

Single copies of the printed publication, entitled “Gypsum Wallboard Winter-Related Job Problems”, are available from the association free of charge. Contractors who wish multiple copies for circulation among key personnel can obtain them for 10¢ apiece.

For orders, write the Gypsum Association, 1603 Orrington Avenue, Evanston, Illinois 60201. Orders for multiple copies will also include a small charge for postage and handling.