Wachuwannano

BY MICHAEL A. GARDNER,
A.K.A. MR. WACHUWANNANO

Never let it be said that Mr. Wachuwannano’s readers are shy about asking questions. To start your new year off on a high note, short answers to short questions actually asked by the reading and telephoning public.

Are veneer plaster and a skim coat of joint compound the same thing?
Nope. Veneer plaster is a gypsum-based plaster material applied to a gypsum board-blueboard-manufactured with a special type of highly absorptive face paper. A skim coat of joint compound is a thin coat of joint treatment material applied to the entire face of a gypsum board panel after the joints, fasteners and accessories have properly finished. Veneer plaster is harder and more durable than a skim coat of joint compound.

What’s DEFS?
DEFS is the acronym for Direct-Applied Exterior Finish System. It’s a system in which the base and finish coats are applied directly to a solid substrate, and insulation is installed behind the substrate in the stud cavity. In a traditional EIFS system, the base and finish coat are installed over mesh. The mesh is installed over a specific type of board insulation that has been attached to the exterior side of the stud cavity.

Why is greenboard green?
So you won’t confuse it with conventional “white paper” board. While the face paper on greenboard is treated so that it will withstand small amounts of moisture, without the light green coloring the board would look almost identical to conventional gypsum board.

What’s an ogee?
A double curve. Join a U-shape and an inverted U-shape into one line and you get an S-curve. Often times you see ogee shapes on plaster or EPS moldings. An ogee wall is a wall that follows an S-curve shape.

Can you believe that the Orioles gave Jimmy Key $7.5 million for two years?
Got to get the kids out of the tree fort and into the weight room.

Can the use of too long a fastener cause a nailpop?
(This answer is almost guaranteed to cause a conversation.) Based solely on Mr. Wachuwannano’s personal experience—can it? Yes. Will it? Maybe. While the negative ramifications of using a fastener that is too short to comply with the fastening criteria for the intended installation are obvious—the intended item might not stay attached. The drawbacks of using too long a fastener are somewhat more subtle. Mr. Wachuwannano would suggest that if you couple an extraordinarily long nail with green lumber, you have a greater than normal chance of getting a nail pop. As it dries, the green lumber will have a larger than usual fastener surface area to push on, and that will exacerbate the nail-pop effect.

Can I bevel the butt ends of drywall pieces so that they will finish better?
In some parts of the United States this seems to be a fairly common practice, and you’ll find a discussion of it in the literature of some of the gypsum board manufacturers. When manufacturers do allow for this procedure, they generally advise limiting the width of the bevel to no more than one-eighth of an inch. Anything wider and you risk excessive exposure of the core of the board and make it more difficult to comply with board edge fastener requirements. It’s up to you as an installer to decide if you want to use this technique. We would advise, however, that you first check with your board manufacturer.

About the Author
Michael A. Gardner is AWCI’s director of technical services. Send your technical questions to Construction Dimensions, or send your e-mail via the Internet at AWCIMIKE@ix.netcom.com.