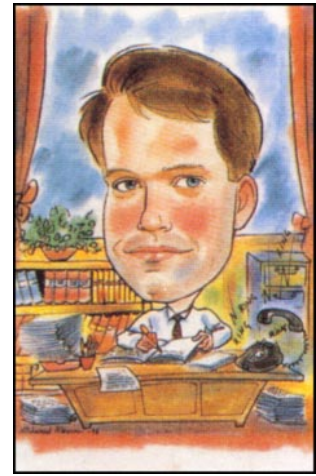


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# Wachuwannano

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



Mr. Wachuwannano heard from a number of readers who enjoyed the format of our January column that featured quick answers to short questions. At the risk of being repetitious, Mr. Wachuwannano will again respond to some of the less strenuous inquiries that have arrived via the phone. Remember, these are actual questions.

***I don't need control joints on interior construction, do I?***

The person who asked this doozie also

tried to convince Mr. Wachuwannano that ASTM C 840 had no applicability to interior construction. (You always can tell when someone has left the expansion relief out of a completed project.)

To take a partial quote from ASTM C 840, "control joints shall be installed in ceilings exceeding 2,500 [square feet] in area and in partition runs exceeding 30 feet. A control joint shall be installed where a control joint occurs in the base exterior wall." The C 840 standard

applies to the interior application of gypsum board.

***Sand is sand, right?***

This must have been asked by the kid brother of Mr. No Control Joints, because the conversation had those "I've screwed up" overtones.

All sand is not created equal. Sand used in portland cement plaster mixes should conform with the requirements of

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ASTM C 897, especially when examined for aggregate size and freedom from impurities. Use too large an aggregate and you can adversely affect the workability of the plaster and the finish texture. Buy sand that is full of gunk and the setting quality and strength of the final mix will be compromised. Sand with a high saline content could also cause premature deterioration of metal trim pieces and an outbreak of efflorescence. (For more information, check the excellent article by *Wachuwannano* buddy Gary Maylon that ran in the December 1996 and January 1997 issues of CD.)

***Water is water, right?***

Not when it comes to mixing plaster, joint treatment or texture material, it's not. Cold water will decelerate the mix-

ing process, and dirty water will affect the quality of the finished mixture. Water with a high saline content is especially bad. (Note our comments two items above about salty plaster.) In hot, dry climates cold water is intentionally used to slow the setting process of plaster mixes. Conversely, hot water is occasionally used to accelerate material setting. That noted, it's best to use water of a cool to lukewarm temperature to produce a consistent product. In addition, the water should always be fresh and from a domestic source. If it's not fit for human consumption, it's not fit for use in a mixable material. 📧

**About the Author**

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