

Chapter 14 – Wall Sheetrock

Preparation	- Verify the following: - Stud centers are marked on the main and basement floors - HVAC ducts, electrical boxes and pipe locations are marked on the floor - Wall blocking is complete. See “Blocking for Sheetrock”, Section 10.6 .3 - Kitchen wall stud faces behind future countertop have been adjusted to the same plane with shims - King/Jack studs on sliding door closet framing have been checked for plumb and straightness and marked OK - Exterior wall stud edges adjacent sliding closet doors have been checked for plumb and plane and marked OK - Poly vapor barrier is complete, and any inside corners are fully tucked and NOT stretched across corner - All outside corner seams, holes and poly seams < two stud overlap are tape sealed - Doorbell chime & thermostat wires have been poked thru the poly - Bathroom vanity light wire, if not run into a box, has been poked thru the poly - Cold air return boots don’t extend more than ½” beyond the face of the wall studs. - Exterior basement walls covered with 1” foam and gaps between top of foamboard and upper plate are sealed - Basement foamboard is secured tight to the exterior walls - Foamboard around basement windows is flush or below surrounding window framing - Spiral saw bits are not bent and are installed correctly - Residual caulk/spray foam from window frames has been removed - Temporary stairway handrail has been removed
General Installation Rules	- Use 1 ¼” screws for house rock; 1 5/8” screws for general garage; 2 ½” screws for garage/house common wall - Install all screws per “Quality Points” listed in Section 14.4.1.8 - All butt joints should be centered on a stud unless above window or door headers - Abutting ends should be “factory” edges as much as possible - All sheets must be secured to at least three studs (i.e. have 3 columns of screws), except for narrow pieces, pieces above windows or doors with headers and closet side walls. Ends should have 7 screws; 5 screws in the field - Screws should be installed straight, with heads slightly recessed below the surface - Keep screws at the bottom of a stud 3”-4” above the floor - Install two screws in the baseplate between each stud - Maintain a ½”-3/4” gap between sheetrock and outside edge of exterior door jambs. - Minimize gap width between sheets. Maximum gap is ¼” - Stagger end joints of successive rows a minimum of two and preferably three studs - Do not force sheetrock to fit. Do not install sheets with broken corners unless OK’d by the Construction Supervisor - Screw heads should be slightly recessed beneath outer paper layer. Install another 1”-2” away if paper is penetrated - Keep basement sheetrock ½” off the concrete floor - Cut out cold air returns, switch boxes (mark in place, then saw sides) and plumbing pipes before fastening. - Cover ALL exposed wall foamboard, except in sill boxes, which will be covered with fiberglass - When cutting with a hand saw, cut facing the finish side and only on the push stroke (or from backside with a pull stroke)
Installing Wall Sheetrock	- Install red dimensioned areas first - Position pieces tight to ceiling rock. Hold piece to studs and install 1 -2 screws per stud before releasing - Mark stud centerlines before completing individual sheetrock installation - Upper rows should completely cover doors and windows, with a single sheet. Two butted scrap pieces can be used over backside of closet headers, but must extend down at least 6” below and beyond header - Save window cut-outs for sheetrocking windowsills and bottom of window headers. Save sliding closet door cut-outs for covering upper portion of swinging doors close to adjacent wall corners. Cover corner to corner - Cut sheetrock out from window and door openings with a spiral saw. Use a vacuum to control dust - Use a box center locator for locating wall outlets. Spiral saw inside the box, then repeat on outside of box - Quality check all sheets as soon as each individual sheet is installed - Keep upper screws 1 ½” down from ceiling rock - Keep screws 1”-2” away from corners - Measure and handsaw cut out sheetrock for cold air returns before installation - Measure and handsaw cut out sheetrock for wall switches before installation - Measure and record approximate electrical box centers before covering with sheetrock. Spiral saw cut after installation - Be sure thermostat and door chime wires (BUT NOT VANITY WIRE) are pulled thru hole in sheetrock. - Vanity wires should be left behind poly. It can be covered with sheetrock - Install sheetrock on outside corners flush to the outside edge of the corner stud - Cover the range plenum. - Do not cover joist hangers below stairway closet platform with sheetrock. Cut just short of the hangers - Replace stairway handrail when as soon as stairway is sheeted - Butt sheetrock up to the tub/shower nailing flange (DO NOT Overlap Nailing Flange) - Install sheetrock above the door and one stud bay on either side of the door on the unfinished side - Use 8’ – 12” sheetrock scraps to cover interior horizontal wiring in unfinished side of basement. Cut all to same width NOTE: Continued on next page

Window Frames	43. Verify framing is free of protruding nails, caulk and spray foam 44. Use window cut-out for covering sill and bottom of header; Use scrap for side pieces 45. Cut four window frame pieces. 46. Use cardboard shim to maintain a gap between sheetrock and window frames sheetrock 47. Keep sill screws 2" away from window frames 48. Step back and view window frame pieces for straightness and reveal. Investigate if reveal is not even. Shim as req'd 49. Install edging strips. Push tight to window and staple
Finishing & Cleanup	50. Leave larger (no full sheets) pieces under stairway if homeowner desires 51. Clean Floors

Quality Points

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- All wall sheetrock pieces are installed.
- Basement exterior walls are covered with sheetrock
- Joints are staggered a minimum of 2 and preferably 3 studs
- All sheets have been quality checked per section 14.4.1.8 and verified "OK":
- There is a ½" - ¾" gap between sheetrock and exterior door jams No sheetrock is installed with broken corners
- All pieces have at least 3 columns of screws (exception-closet side walls and pieces over window and door headers)
- All windows and door headers are covered with a single piece of sheetrock (backside of closets are the exception) All interior penetrations (electrical boxes, cold air returns, plumbing, attic scuttle, bath fans, etc.,) have been cut out (verify via house plan and marks on the floor)
- Furnace thermostat and doorbell chime wires have been fed through the sheetrock. Vanity wire has not
- Sheetrock edges on outside corners and sills do not extend beyond the edge corner (up to ¼" short of corner is ok)
- **Basement sheetrock is installed ½" off floor**
- Sheetrock around window frames is straight, i.e., fits tight to the frame, no bowing or bulging, sides are parallel
- Reveal around windows is uniform from top-to-bottom and side-to-side
- All windows have edging strips installed tight to the window frames
- Sheetrock is not covering tub/shower nailing flange
- Sheetrock below stairway closet platform is not covering joist hangers
- Stairway handrail has been re-installed
- Wiring between studs on the interior walls of the unfinished side of the basement is covered, sizes uniform
- Full leftover 8' sheets from basement are brought upstairs for return to supplier
- Usable scraps (< full sized sheet) are under stairs, set on by 2X scrap.