

GA-214-2022 *Recommended Levels of Finish for Gypsum Panel Products*  
**Quick Reference Guide**

FINISHING LEVEL	Joint Taping – Flat and Interior Angles	Flat Joints – Additional Coats	Interior Angles – Additional Coats	Accessories – Separate Coats	Fasteners – Separate Coats	Surface Treatment
<b>0</b>	None					
<b>1</b>	Tape Set in Joint Compound	None	None	Optional, unless specified in project documents	None	None
<b>2</b>	Tape embedded in joint compound and wiped with a joint knife, leaving a thin coat of joint compound over tape	None	None	1 coat	1 coat	
<b>3</b>		1 coat	1 coat	2 coats	2 coats	
<b>4</b>		2 coats	1 coat	3 coats	3 coats	
<b>5</b>		2 coats	1 coat	3 coats	3 coats	

**Note:** Surface Treatment is a thin skim coat of joint compound or a material manufactured especially for this purpose applied to the entire surface.

LEVEL	Where to specify minimum level of finish.
<b>0</b>	Typically specified in temporary construction or whenever the final decoration has not been determined.
<b>1</b>	Typically specified joint treatment in smoke barrier applications and areas not normally open to public view such as plenum areas above ceilings, attics, and other areas where the assembly would generally be concealed.
<b>2</b>	Typically specified where gypsum panel products are used as a substrate for tile; or in garages, warehouse storage or other similar areas where surface appearance is not a concern.
<p>The design professional shall specify the procedure and construction details of the mock-ups within the project documents. When specified, a jobsite mock-up shall serve as a benchmark for the purpose of acceptance of the related widespread work for all appearance areas finished to a Level 3, 4, or 5. A completed mock-up will be the visual project standard that will enable the design professional, contractors and building owners to agree upon the final appearance prior to beginning any widespread finish work.</p>	
<b>3</b>	Typically specified in appearance areas that are to receive heavy- or medium-texture finishes (spray or hand applied) before final painting, or where heavy-duty/commercial grade wallcoverings are to be applied as the final decoration. The design professional shall specify the mock-up procedure and mock-up construction details within the project documents. This is not the correct level of finish for smooth wall designs or applications where light textures, non-continuous textures, or lightweight wallcoverings are to be applied.
<b>4</b>	Typically specified in appearance areas where smooth wall designs are decorated with flat paints, light textures, non-continuous textures, or wallcoverings are to be applied. The design professional shall clearly indicate the areas that meet these criteria on the finish schedule and/or plans, specify the mock-up procedure and mock-up construction details within the project documents. Non-flat or dark/deep tone paints are not recommended; refer to Level 5. In critical lighting areas, flat paints applied over light continuous textures may reduce joint photographing. The weight, texture, and sheen level of wallcoverings applied over this level of finish should be carefully evaluated. Joints and fasteners must be adequately concealed if the wallcovering used is of lightweight construction, contains limited pattern, has a sheen level other than flat, or any combination thereof. Unbacked vinyl wallcoverings are not recommended over this level of finish.
<b>5</b>	Typically specified in appearance areas where smooth wall designs are decorated with non-flat paints (i.e. sheen/gloss) or other glossy decorative finishes, dark/deep tone paints are applied, or critical lighting conditions occur. The design professional shall clearly indicate the areas that meet these criteria on the finish schedule and/or plans, and specify the mock-up procedure and construction details within the project documents. This level of finish is the most effective method to provide a uniform surface and minimize the possibility of joint photographing and/or fasteners showing through the final decoration.

# NOTES

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## **GYPSUM ASSOCIATION MEMBERS 2022**

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