

Chapter 14 – Wall Sheetrock

Preparation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Verify the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Wall blocking is complete (add as needed). See “Blocking for Sheetrock”, Section 10.5 b. Poly vapor barrier is complete and any inside corners are fully tucked and NOT stretched across corner c. The location of all electrical boxes, plumbing pipes and HVAC ducts and damper accesses are marked on the floor d. All wall stud centers are marked on the floor with red crayon e. Doorbell chime & thermostat wires have been poked thru the poly f. Bathroom vanity light wire, if not run into a box, has been poked thru the poly g. Cold air return boots don’t extend more than ½” beyond the face of the wall studs h. PVC pipe in exterior stud bays have been back filled with foamboard. If not, see Sec. 12.3.1.8 2. Locate and save the moisture resistant sheet (green or light blue) for use above tub/shower areas 3. Remove residual caulk/spray foam from window frames and mask frames with 2” blue painters tape 4. Remove temporary stairway handrail
Planning	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Develop an installation plan (cutting/carrying teams, installation teams, room plan-where to start, size of last piece in row, staggers, etc.,) 6. Determine length of 1st sheet in each row. Ensure ending piece will have at least 3 rows of screws and that end joint seams are staggered by at least 2 studs on adjacent rows
General Installation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. All sheets must be secured to at least three studs (i.e. have 3 rows of screws) 8. Each sheet must have 7 screws on each end, 5 “in the field” and 2 in bottom plate between studs 9. Start on top row of an interior wall in a corner where it abuts an exterior wall or in an exterior wall corner. 10. Abutting ends should be “factory” edges if possible and always centered on a stud 11. Measure “tight” and subtract by ¼” for EACH wall abutting end 12. Stagger end joints on each successive row a minimum of two and preferably three studs 13. Keep sheetrock ½”-3/4” away from outside edge of exterior door jams. 14. Cutting sheets: Cut out cold air returns, switch boxes (mark in place, then saw sides) and plumbing pipes before fastening. Sink drains can be cut with a 2 ½” hole saw 15. Cut out windows along framing and electrical receptacles with roto-zip after sheet is initially fastened with about 10 screws (do NOT screw within 2 feet until after cut-out) 16. RotoZip guidelines: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Verify bit extends about 5/8” - ¾” past base plate (depth). b. Locate box center or truss where box is attached. Start 4” out from center and move until bit contacts the outside of the box (note feel and sound difference), then move bit counterclockwise (DO NOT CUT INSIDE THE BOX as this could damage wiring) 17. “L” cut around all window and door openings at least 6”. Fill gap with scrap piece. 18. For narrow strips (posts, window openings, wall ends, sliding closet openings, etc.,) fasten with 2 screws at each end and stagger in-between 12-16” apart 19. Cover ALL exposed wall foamboard (except in sill box area) 20. For outside corners install to corner edge of framing (up to 1/8” short) do NOT overlap sheetrock
Installation On: Walls	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 21. Start installation on top row of interior wall at intersection of exterior wall (or at an exterior wall corner) finishing top row before starting bottom row on each wall. Keep screws 1 ½” from ceiling rock and corners 22. Measure to determine starting piece length required for each row to ensure opposite end piece is not too short. Joints must be centered on a stud. All sheets must be fastened with three rows of screws 23. Cut piece, position tight to ceiling and secure with enough screws (at least 10) to hold in place 24. Mark stud center lines for screws using T-square, roto zip as needed and finish installing screws 25. Be sure thermostat and door chime wires (BUT NOT VANITY WIRE) are pulled thru hole in sheetrock. Cover the range plenum. 26. Use sheetrock scrap as spacers in basement and knee walls to keep ½” off of concrete floor) 27. Quality check top row sheets (refer to Quality Points on back side) and mark “OK” with scrap sheetrock. Begin quality checks as soon as each individual sheet has been installed 28. Replace stairway handrail when as soon as stairway is sheetrocked
Window Sills	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 29. Before cutting bottom row sheets below windows (Main floor only) , install 1” wide foam filler pieces in sill pan (between shims). Cover with a 3” wide sheetrock filler cut to sill length, and flush with interior edge of sill. Secure with three 1¼” screws. MAKE SURE bottom row piece is cut to be flush with TOP of this sill filler piece. Do not use filler strips on basement windows. 30. Cut & install four window frame pieces. Install sill & top first, then sides. Secure bottom finish piece over fillers w/two 2½” screws (NOT THRU PAN - stay 2 ½” from window frame)
Shower Area	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 31. Install light blue or green moisture-resistant sheetrock on walls above tub/shower. Butt sheet up to the tub/shower flange (but DO NOT Overlap Flange)

Quality Points

Chapter 14 – Wall Sheetrock

- All wall sheetrock pieces are installed. All foamboard—except in sill box area—is covered with sheetrock
- Joints are staggered a minimum of 2 and preferably 3 studs
- Minimum length - no pieces shorter than 3 rows of screws (exception-closet side walls)
- Sheetrock overlaps upper edges of doors and windows by at least 6" (upside down "L")
- 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
- Sheet rock edges on outside corners do not extend beyond the edge of framing corner (up to 1/8" short of corner is ok)
- Sheetrock under windows is installed flush with the top of the **filler** sheetrock (NOT TOP of FRAMING)
- All sheets have been quality checked and verified "OK" for the following:
 - 7 screws on the ends
 - 5 screws in the field
 - 2 screws in bottom plate between studs
 - All sheets are fastened with at least 3 rows of screws
 - All screw heads are countersunk "slightly" below drywall surface. If not, drive in further and if they "spin", remove and replace
 - Screws that have completely broken through the paper covering of the sheetrock have been removed and repaced
 - All narrow pieces (posts, door and window frame pieces) are fastened with a pair of screws on each end, with staggered screw spacing at 12"-16" in between
- Inspect window frame pieces for straight, parallel surfaces. Replace if uneven or warped appearance
- Stairway handrail has been re-installed
- 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.