

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 10.5.3 b. King/Jack studs on sliding door closet framing are straight and plumb to within 1/16”. c. Poly vapor barrier is complete and any inside corners are fully tucked and NOT stretched across corner d. The location of all electrical boxes, plumbing pipes and HVAC ducts and damper accesses are marked on the floor e. All wall stud centers are marked on the floor with red crayon f. Doorbell chime & thermostat wires have been poked thru the poly g. Bathroom vanity light wire, if not run into a box, has been poked thru the poly h. Cold air return boots don’t extend more than ½” beyond the face of the wall studs. If so, bend back i. PVC pipe in exterior stud bays have been back filled with foamboard. Perimeter caulked. Joints taped 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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. 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 b. Saw cut sheets over windows along the side framing. Use a utility knife to score top/bottom. Snap to remove c. Rotozip electrical receptacles after sheet is initially secured. Do NOT screw within 2 feet until cut out. 15. RotoZip guidelines: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Verify bit extends about 5/8”- ¾” past base plate. 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. Move bit counterclockwise (DO NOT CUT INSIDE THE BOX as this could damage wiring) 16. Upper rows should completely cover doors and windows, preferably with a single sheet. If using two pieces, the seam should be at least 6” inside window/door framing. Cut and snap per 14b. above 17. 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 18. Cover ALL exposed wall foamboard (except in sill box area) 19. 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"> 20. Start installation on top row of interior wall at intersection of exterior wall (or at an exterior wall corner). Finish top row before starting bottom row on each wall. Keep screws 1 ½” down from ceiling rock 21. 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 22. Cut piece, position tight to wall studs and secure with enough screws (at least 10) to hold in place 23. Mark stud center lines for screws using T-square, roto zip as needed and finish installing screws 24. Be sure thermostat and door chime wires (BUT NOT VANITY WIRE) are pulled thru hole in sheetrock. Cover the range plenum. 25. Use sheetrock scrap as spacers in basement and knee walls to keep ½” off of concrete floor) 26. 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 27. Replace stairway handrail when as soon as stairway is sheetrocked
Window Sills	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 28. 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. 29. 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"> 30. 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

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- 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)
- If more than one piece covers the upper half of windows/doors, seam is at least 6" inside the framing
- 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
- 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 a companion screw installed within 2"
 - 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.