

## GA-214 QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

### GA-214-2015 Recommended Levels of Finish for Gypsum Board, Glass Mat and Fiber-Reinforced Gypsum Panels Quick Reference Guide

FINISHING LEVEL	Joint Taping – Flat and Interior Angles	Flat Joints – Additional Coats	Interior Angles – Additional Coats	ACCESSORIES – Additional Coats	FASTENERS – Separate Coats	SURFACE TREATMENT
0	None					
1	Tape Set in Joint Compound	None	None	Optional, unless specified in project documents	None	None
2	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	
3		1 coat	1 coat	2 coats	2 coats	
4		2 coats	1 coat	3 coats	3 coats	
5		2 coats	1 coat	3 coats	3 coats	1 coat

**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.
0	Typically specified in temporary construction or whenever the final decoration has not been determined.
1	Typically specified in smoke barrier applications and areas not normally open to public view such as plenum areas above ceilings, attics, building service corridors, and other areas generally concealed from public view
2	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.
<b>For Levels 3, 4, and 5, jobsite mock-up(s) shall be used to determine acceptance of the finish within the building. The design professional shall specify the mockup procedure and mock-up construction details within the project documents, unless waived in writing. The final decoration specification (e.g. painting specification) should include the application of a priming material prior to the decoration.</b>	
3	Typically specified in appearance areas which 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. This level of finish is not recommended for smooth wall designs or applications where light textures, non-continuous textures, or lightweight wallcoverings are applied.
4	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. This level of finish is not recommended where non-flat or dark/deep tone paints are applied. <b>Critical Lighting</b> - In critical lighting areas, flat paints applied over light continuous textures tend to reduce joint photographing. <b>Wallcoverings</b> - 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.
5	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. 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:

**GYPSUM ASSOCIATION MEMBERS 2017**  
AMERICAN GYPSUM COMPANY LLC  
CERTAINTEED GYPSUM, INC. / CERTAINTEED GYPSUM CANADA, INC.  
CONTINENTAL BUILDING PRODUCTS OPERATING COMPANY, LLC  
GEORGIA-PACIFIC GYPSUM LLC  
NATIONAL GYPSUM COMPANY  
PABCO® GYPSUM  
UNITED STATES GYPSUM COMPANY / CGC INC.