

Drywall that Provides Less Food for Mold

Georgia Pacific has introduced two new interior drywall products, DensArmor™ Interior Guard and DensArmor™ Plus Interior Guard that may provide some help in finishing those damp areas that we can't reasonably expect to stay dry despite our best efforts.

DensArmor™ Interior Guard has an inorganic glass fibre mat embedded into the back side of a gypsum core, with a heavy-duty paper on the face. Suitable framing, fastening, trims and finishing are the same as those used for standard gypsum wallboard. Interior Guard is designed to provide better protection from incidental moisture in the stud cavity and resist the growth of mold on the back side since there is no paper to provide food.

DensArmor™ Interior Guard Plus has coated glass mats on both the face and the back of a gypsum core that is reinforced with inorganic glass fibres. DensArmor™ Plus is designed to provide greater moisture resistance and dimensional stability. It resists warping, rippling and buckling. This product can also be installed on conventional wood or metal framing and uses standard cornerbeads and

trims. However, the use of glass fibre tape is recommended for joint treatments and finishing options include skim coating with joint compound or other veneer plaster or textured surface treatments. There is no paper on the back or face to provide food for molds.

Both products are available in 1/2 inch or 5/8 inch (Type X for fire resistant applications) thicknesses. An informal survey indicates that these products are not widely stocked yet but can be obtained through special order. DensArmor™ Interior Guard seems to be about the same price as a typical water resistant panel that has a chemically treated paper face and back. Both water-resistant and DensArmor™ Interior Guard panels are about 65% more expensive than standard gypsum wallboard. DensArmor™ Plus seems to be a little more than twice as much as standard wallboard.

Many times during IAQ investigations we see concrete or concrete block basements with interior framing, glass fibre cavity insulation and a poly air/vapour barrier. Drywall is used to provide an interior cover but may be left unfinished. Foundation drainage, exterior



Moldy "standard" drywall.

dampproofing, under-floor moisture protection and wall interior air/vapour barriers may all be dubious. Interior generated moisture from such things as poorly vented dryers and bathrooms or even spillage from gas combustion equipment may add to the potential problems. Adding food for mold to this mix in the form of paper on drywall makes little sense.

An average basement might have a perimeter of about 140 feet. With an 8-foot ceiling height, about 1120 square feet of drywall would be needed. The cost for standard gypsum board alone would average about \$400. The extra expense for drywall that provides less food for mold may often be justified.

More information about these two products is available at www.gp.com/gypsum. WB

