

Installers' past success with the XP product in schools such as Rockway Middle have led to the implementation of a new drywall standard in school projects throughout Miami-Dade County.



National Gypsum's family of Gold Bond® BRAND XP® mold-resistant products stands up to abuse, impact, mold and moisture

Setting a new standard in South Florida school construction

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Despite concerns raised by a barrage of hurricanes in recent years, the Southeast continues to see record growth. In fact, recent census data shows Florida is home to 15 of the country's top 100 fastest-growing counties – more than any other state.

In addition to affecting air quality, transportation, housing and other quality-of-life issues, significant short-term growth places considerable strain on a community's public school system. In Miami-Dade County, that challenge is compounded by a statewide maximum class-size mandate and a preference for building new schools or upgrading old buildings instead of relying on portable classrooms to accommodate the fast-growing student population.

Several South Florida school districts, including Miami-Dade County Public Schools, have established new capital improvement plans designed to relieve overcrowding, meet the class-size mandate, and keep projects within budget as construction costs continue to soar. Instrumental in that plan is National Gypsum's family of Gold Bond® BRAND XP® mold-resistant products.

FINDING A SOLUTION

Last year, Miami-Dade County Public Schools hired four architectural firms to design adaptable, expandable, prototype schools for early childhood, elementary, middle and K-8 facilities. Then, it named four construction managers to build three schools each, all with the same design criteria and standardized specifications.

John B. Pirtle Construction Co. of Davie, Fla., received the contract for one set of K-8 schools. "At some point, virtually all structures – especially in South Florida – experience water infiltration," said Mike Geary, executive vice president at Pirtle Construction. "Because of this, we proactively sought a wallboard product for the K-8 prototype project that was both mold and moisture resistant as well as cost-effective."

That's when preconstruction managers at Tiffany Construction, one of Pirtle Construction's regular subcontractors, recommended National Gypsum's Gold Bond® BRAND Hi-Abuse® XP® and Hi-Impact® XP® gypsum wallboard systems. The XP product line has been the wallboard of choice for Tiffany Construction's school projects for a

Hi-Abuse[®] BRAND XP[®] Wallboard

Hi-Impact XP Wallboard is the only wallboard that resists abuse, impact, mold and moisture, which makes it ideal for corridors, stairways and other high-traffic areas in school construction.

number of years, and has recently been used in multiple locations, including North Miami Beach High School, Rockway Middle School, Centennial Middle School, Coral Reef Elementary School and Palm Lakes Elementary School.

“In addition to standing up to the kinds of wear-and-tear common in elementary and middle school hallways and classrooms, the XP product line also resists moisture and mold growth,” said Rob Noland, preconstruction manager at Tiffany Construction. “As a result, we can help decrease the likelihood of air quality and structural problems resulting from moisture damage down the road.”

Tiffany Construction will install approximately 14,000 sheets of wallboard in each of the three prototype K-8 schools. In hallways and other high-traffic areas, installers will use 10-foot sheets of Hi-Impact XP Wallboard, which is most commonly used in structures like schools, shopping centers, hospitals and correctional facilities, where surface abrasion, impact, mold and moisture are major concerns.

“We’ve been firm believers in the XP product line since it was first introduced several years ago,” said Noland. “Its longevity, durability, mold resistance, and cost-effectiveness make it ideal for school construction.”

In spaces such as classrooms, Tiffany Construction will use Hi-Abuse XP Wallboard. Frequently used in residential structures as well as commercial and institutional buildings, Hi-Abuse Wallboard is designed to stand up to dents, scuffs and scratches while at the same time delivering the mold resistance common to the entire XP product line.

Installers will complete all remaining areas with 5/8" XP mold resistant wallboard and National Gypsum's ProForm[®] BRAND XP[®] joint compound, which is available to provide a complete mold-resistant system.

SETTING THE STANDARD

For Tiffany Construction, the XP product line delivers dramatic cost savings and ease of installation when compared with other finishing techniques.

“Whereas more traditional methods can be labor intensive and design restrictive, the XP products are easy to cut, hang, finish, and, most importantly, reconfigure. That’s vital given Miami-Dade schools’ desire to build facilities that can adapt with the community as it continues to grow.”

A significant advantage of the XP line, according to Noland, is that, unlike comparable competitive products, it does not require significantly more time to achieve a level-four finish than standard drywall. When evaluating the line against other finishing techniques, he calculates XP products cut timelines in half when compared to veneer and plaster finishes, and that lath and stucco projects would require double the budget and four times the timeline to complete in comparison to the same project employing the Hi-Impact XP or Hi-Abuse XP products.

Tiffany Construction’s past success with the XP product line has been instrumental in establishing a new wallboard standard for future Miami-Dade County school construction projects. “National Gypsum’s XP products exceeded Miami-Dade County Public Schools’ expectations,” said Noland. “The product line is an easy-to-use total package with the added bonus of mold resistance. As a result, it’s now the product of choice for new school construction throughout the county.”



STANDS UP TO IMPACT

Hi-Impact® BRAND XP® Wallboard

Heavy-use areas like schools, hospitals and public housing need the toughest wallboard you can get. That's Hi-Impact XP. Our rugged, fiberglass mesh-reinforced wallboard is the only one that combines abuse and impact resistance with mold and moisture protection. In other words, it can handle just about everything that comes its way.

National 
Gypsum®

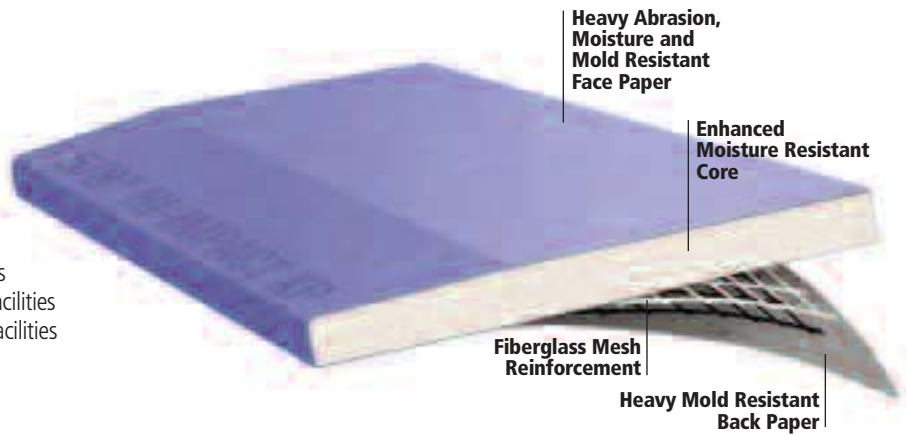
Technical Info: 1-800-NATIONAL
nationalgypsum.com
nationalgypsum.com/espanol

Excellence Across The Board®

Hi-Impact[®] BRAND XP[®] Wallboard

Classification Level 3 – Heavy Duty

- Commercial**
- Shopping Centers
 - Airports
 - Mail Rooms
 - Loading Docks
- Institutional**
- Court Houses
 - Police Stations
 - Schools
 - Dormitories
 - Gymnasiums
 - Sports Facilities
 - Health Care Facilities
 - Correctional Facilities



Description

Hi-Impact[®] BRAND XP[®] Wallboard panels consist of a tapered edge, moisture resistant, fire resistant, Type X gypsum core encased in 100% recycled heavy, smooth, moisture, mold/mildew and abrasion resistant purple paper on the face side and strong 100% recycled mold and mildew resistant liner paper on the back side. A fiberglass mesh is embedded into the core, close to the back of the board to provide additional impact/penetration resistance. Hi-Impact XP Wallboard features a specially formulated core to provide fire resistance ratings when used in tested systems in addition to providing extra protection against mold and mildew compared to standard wallboard products.

Applications

This unique wallboard is designed for use in wall assemblies in areas where surface durability, impact/penetration, moisture, mold and mildew resistance are major concerns. 5/8" Fire-Shield Hi-Impact XP panels may be used where Type X gypsum panels are specified in some fire-rated wall assemblies (i.e., UL U300, U400 and V400 series).

Limitations

- Not recommended where it will be exposed to temperatures exceeding 125°F (52°C) for extended periods of time.
- Hi-Impact XP should not be used as a backerboard directly behind tile in tub and shower areas.
- Must be stored off the ground and under cover. Sufficient risers must be used to ensure support for the entire length of the wallboard to prevent sagging.
- Hi-Impact XP should not be used in areas subject to constant and/or excessive moisture and high humidity such as gang showers, saunas, steam rooms and swimming pool enclosures. PermaBase[®] BRAND Cement Board is recommended for these areas.
- Gypsum Wallboard must be kept dry to minimize the potential for mold growth. Adequate care should be taken while transporting, storing, applying and maintaining gypsum wallboard. For additional information, refer to the Gypsum Association publication, "Guidelines for the Prevention of Mold Growth on Gypsum Wallboard" (GA-238-03), which is available at www.gypsum.org under the "Download Free Gypsum Association Publications" section.

FEATURES

Encased in heavy, smooth, purple, abrasion, moisture, mold and mildew resistant 100% recycled paper

High density, fire resistant, moisture resistant Type X core

Core embedded layer of impact resistant mesh

Easily scored and snapped

Lightweight alternative to CMU

BENEFITS

- Resists the growth of mold per ASTM D 3273 with a score of 10, the best possible score for this test

- Scuff and scratch resistant
- Does not require the added strength of a setting type compound for joint reinforcement
- Allows for same joint treatment reinforcement procedures as standard drywall, thereby reducing cost and the risk of improper installation
- Accepts a wide range of decorative finishes

- May be used in fire rated wall assemblies requiring a Type X core

- Indentation resistant
- Hi-Impact XP can be used as a tile backerboard in dry areas or areas with limited water exposure such as toilet/sink areas and areas above tile in tubs and showers
- Transitions into drywall without the use of control joints

- Increased resistance to soft body and hard body impacts

- Saves time by eliminating the need for special cutting tools and rasping of cut edges
- Openings and outlet boxes are cut out in same manner as standard wallboard

- Faster installation

- Reduces cost of installation