

GYPSUM PANELS vs. FIRE-RATED OSB PANELS

Don't Let False and Misleading Information Influence Your Next Project!

A leading manufacturer of fire-rated OSB (FROSB) panels has made misleading and incorrect statements in marketing materials when referring to gypsum panels and when comparing building systems constructed using gypsum panels with systems constructed using FROSB panels.

These inaccurate assertions—which create incorrect comparisons between systems and materials—may have resulted in confusion and misunderstanding among architects, builders and other AEC professionals.

Believing that these comparisons and assertions are deceptive, the Gypsum Association, on behalf of its members, has a responsibility to cite and correct these false comparisons, fallacious assertions and misleading statements.

MISLEADING

TRUE

Using fire-rated OSB panels...

"ELIMINATES A LAYER OF GYPSUM"

When gypsum systems and FROSB panel systems that serve an equivalent function and provide equivalent fire ratings are compared, the FROSB system and the gypsum system almost always incorporate the same number of panels. In the rare instance where a gypsum panel can be eliminated, **the FROSB system typically requires the addition of supplemental material** to maintain its fire rating.

Fire-Rated OSB panels...

"REDUCES LABOR COSTS AND CONSTRUCTION TIMELINES"

FROSB systems often increase labor costs and construction time because they require supplemental materials to achieve equivalent fire ratings. In addition, FROSB panels are more difficult to cut than gypsum panels, adding labor time.

Implications and statements that gypsum panels, specifically shaftwall liner panels,...

"DO NOT CUT CLEAN"

Gypsum panels cut clean by score and snap, including shaftwall liner, which can also cut clean using a circular saw. Also, gypsum panels don't chip or splinter when cut.

FROSB systems are a...

"SPACE SAVING ALTERNATIVE"

Any increased floor space provided by a FROSB wall is a negligible improvement in linear space that is extremely long and narrow, hardly a difference-maker to a resident or builder.

Installing gypsum shaftwall liner systems requires a...

"SPECIALTY TRADE"

Gypsum shaftwall liner systems do not require a specialty trade for installation—they are installed by tradespeople who install framing or drywall.

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Because gypsum is naturally fire-resistant **gypsum panel orientation is not an issue**—gypsum panels are equally fire-resistant from either face and throughout.

A FROSB panel that relies on a fire-resistant coating or laminate to maintain its fire-resistance **must have the facing correctly oriented** in a system; otherwise, the system will not perform as designed.

Many fire-resistant **gypsum panel systems can be constructed without supplemental materials** such as caulks or mineral fiber insulation.

Fire-resistant systems that incorporate materials with coatings or laminates **often need supplemental materials** to achieve a fire-resistance rating, adding material and labor costs.

Gypsum panels can be used in any construction type and are considered non-combustible by building codes.

Even with added fire-rated coatings, wood-based materials are not non-combustible; use of wood panels is **limited to specific construction types**.

Gypsum panels are quickly and easily cut for installation. Penetrations, cutouts for outlet boxes and other notches are easily made in gypsum panels. Power tools not required.

OSB panels are **more difficult to cut than gypsum panels**.



REMEMBER: Gypsum panels are a safe and proven building material manufactured with few additives. If damaged, panels are easily repaired using hand tools and industry-backed standardized methods. **Domestic manufactured fire-resistant gypsum panels have a proven history of safe use for over a century.** Many newer products lack this history of use and performance.