

## GA Translates Additional Technical Documents

The Gypsum Association (GA), which serves constituencies across the United States and Canada, has added three publications to its library of free Canadian French and Spanish technical publications.

The following publications are now available in English, French, and Spanish:

- GA-236-2017 *Joint Treatment Under Extreme Weather Conditions*
- GA-253-2018 *Application of Gypsum Sheathing*
- GA-801-2017 *Handling and Storage of Gypsum Panel Products*

*Joint Treatment Under Extreme Weather Conditions* (GA-236-2017) provides special instructions for treating joints during weather extremes. Periodic revision of the document ensures that recommendations reflect current best practices. Very high or very low temperatures and humidity levels affect the drying times of joint compounds. Moreover, swings in temperature or moisture levels can cause movement in wood or steel framing. GA-236 continues to offer common-sense measures designed to mitigate problems associated with extreme weather.

Since 2016, GA-236 has included a graphic developed by the Drywall Finishing Council that illustrates joint-compound drying times as a function of temperature at a specific relative humidity. "This graphic representation of drying times under specific conditions provides great guidance for contractors in the field, especially those who work in regions where extremes in temperature and humidity levels are a frequent concern," said GA Director of Technical Services Michael Schmeida. "Making this document available to French and Spanish speakers

will provide tremendous value on construction sites across the United States and Canada."

*Application of Gypsum Sheathing* (GA-253-2018) describes proper methods of handling, storing, and applying a gypsum panel product that is increasingly popular as a substrate for exterior cladding. With a water-resistant gypsum core and water-repellent surface, gypsum sheathing is used under wood, aluminum, or vinyl siding as well as brick, exterior insulation and finish systems, and stucco exterior finishes. GA-253 clarifies fastener recommendations and better defines the appropriate water-resistant barriers for use in conjunction with gypsum sheathing.

*Handling and Storage of Gypsum Panel Products* (GA-801-2017) details proper means and methods of safely shipping, handling, and storing gypsum panel products. From the plant to the jobsite, GA-801 guides all aspects of handling and storage both to ensure the integrity of the panels awaiting installation and to protect workers from potential accidents due to improper jobsite storage and handling procedures. This is the first time GA-801 has been translated into both Spanish and French, and the Association believes this publication will be welcome by bilingual and multilingual construction crews.

"GA technical publications not only provide best practices related to the proper storage, handling, and installation of gypsum panel products but also serve to clarify expectations among project stakeholders," noted Stephen H. Meima. "Offering increasing numbers of publications in multiple languages broadens both technical knowledge and mutual understanding among project team members."

# Evaluation Report Reissued

Sponsored by the Gypsum Association (GA), Evaluation Report ESR-1338 has been reissued by ICC Evaluation Service, LLC (ICC-ES). The reissued report will remain valid until February 2020. The report indicates compliance with the 2018, 2015, 2012, and 2009 *International Building Code* and the 2018, 2015, 2012, and 2009 *International Residential Code*. As a result of the revision of ESR-1338, the recently released *Fire Resistance and Sound Control Design Manual* (GA-600-2018) is an acceptable source of fire-resistance and sound-control systems.

"I am pleased that the public release of the 22nd edition of GA-600-2018 and the revision of ESR-1338 could occur, essentially, in tandem," said GA Executive Director Stephen H. Meima, LEED Green Assoc. "The new manual contains up-to-date sound test data for many generic systems, allowing designers to make better informed decisions when selecting systems for specific sound-control requirements, such as speech privacy."

ICC-ES provides technical evaluations of building products, components, methods, and materials. Evaluation reports directly address the issue of code compliance and are extremely useful to both regulatory agencies and building-product manufacturers. Agencies use evaluation reports to help determine code compliance and enforce building regulations; manufacturers use reports as evidence that their products meet code requirements and warrant regulatory approval. ICC-ES evaluation reports are public documents available to regulators and manufacturers, contractors, specifiers, architects, engineers, and anyone else with an interest in the building industry. An ICC-ES evaluation report provides evidence that products and systems are code-compliant.

Evaluation Report ESR-1338 is available in the Reports Directory on [icc-es.org](http://icc-es.org). It may also be accessed via [www.gypsum.org](http://www.gypsum.org).

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## GA to Launch New Website in Spring 2019

### *Site Emphasizes Easy Access to Essential Information on Gypsum Panel Products*

The Gypsum Association (GA) takes seriously its mission to promote the use of gypsum while advancing the development, growth, and general welfare of the gypsum industry in the United States and Canada on behalf of its member companies. As the center for technical information on gypsum panel products, the new [gypsum.org](http://gypsum.org) will better serve the broad range of audiences seeking information on the installation and use of various gypsum panel products from regular drywall to specialized performance gypsum panels. Soon the A/E/C community and building-code officials and inspectors will experience enhanced search capabilities that will take them quickly and easily to technical information that only the GA can provide.

In addition to GA publications, the revamped website will include a growing library of short-form videos. The first, "How to Read the GA-600 *Fire*

*Resistance and Sound Control Design Manual*" will provide visitors with a quick tutorial on the Association's flagship publication. Referenced by the model building codes as a source of fire-resistive designs for more than 50 years, GA-600 contains hundreds of assemblies that describe appropriate construction of fire-rated walls and partitions, floor-ceiling systems, area separation firewalls, and many others. "How to Read the GA-600" will show viewers how to interpret system descriptions in order to design, specify, and build code-compliant structures.

In addition to providing easy access to more than thirty free technical downloads that touch on every aspect of building with gypsum panel products, the new GA website will host an expansive FAQ section. FAQs address problems in the field by reference to GA publications or answer to questions specific to particular situations, such as when gypsum panel products need to be replaced after fire or water exposure.

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While FAQs are time-saving ready references, the GA understands that, under certain circumstances, there is no substitute for personal interaction with its technical services team. The Association's Executive Director, Stephen H. Meima, LEED Green Assoc., makes clear that the upgrades and enhancements to gypsum.org are aimed at increasing access to resources, not discouraging the design and construction community, code officials, or the general public from picking up the phone to speak directly with the Association's Technical Services Department. "While many building-product associations are moving toward 'virtual' technical services delivery, the GA believes receiving sound technical advice on project-specific questions provides tremendous value to our key audiences."

## Revised GA Technical Documents Slated for Release in 2019

As a service to the design and construction communities, more than thirty technical documents are available for free download through the Gypsum Association (GA) Bookstore. The following GA publications have been revised and will be available this spring:

- GA-221 *Causes, Prevention, and Repair of Joint Ridging and Centerline Cracking*
- GA-222 *Repairing Screw or Nail Pops*
- GA-225 *Repair of Fire-Rated Gypsum Panel Product Systems*
- GA-231 *Assessing Water Damage to Gypsum Board*

Revised technical documents expected later this year include the following:

- GA-220 *Gypsum Board Winter-Related Installation Recommendations*
- GA-226 *Application of Gypsum Board to Form Curved Surfaces*
- GA-234 *Control Joints for Fire-Resistance Rated Systems*
- GA-238 *Guidelines for Prevention of Mold Growth on Gypsum Board*

## Tech Question

**Q) Can trusses and dimensional framing be interchanged in the GA-600 Floor/Ceiling assemblies without affecting fire rating or STC/IIC performance? In GA-600-2018 (22nd Edition), General Explanatory Note 18 only says greater depths are permitted.**

**Answer:** Trusses and other engineered wood products cannot arbitrarily be substituted for dimensional lumber in fire-resistance rated floor-ceiling assemblies. General Explanatory Note 19 (22nd Edition) is specific to increased depth but does not cover the use of different products or materials. Floor-ceiling assemblies tested with 2 × 10 joists\* can be constructed using 2 × 12 joists, and assemblies tested with 12" deep trusses can be built with 16" (or deeper) trusses, without reducing the fire-resistance rating. However, substituting trusses for dimensional lumber can reduce the fire-resistance rating.

Have a question? For technical assistance phone 301-277-8686 between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. ET.

\*All dimensions should be considered nominal.

GA Director of Technical Services Michael Schmeida, MSc, LEED AP, says, "Regular review and revision of GA documents is a key component of the Association's technical services mandate and the GA's Building Code and Technical Committee has made a three-to-five-year revision cycle for all documents a high priority."

# The 22nd Edition of the *Fire Resistance and Sound Control Design Manual* is available in the GA Bookstore.

## Update your Manual, today.



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