

The specifications and standards for installation of gypsum sheathing are covered under the Gypsum Associations document GA-253 and ASTM C-1280. The specification to manufacture gypsum sheathing is covered in ASTM C-79 and C 1396, Gypsum Association GA-253 and ASTM C-280

Exposure after installation: Gypsum sheathing is a substrate that shall be covered by an exterior cladding or weather-resistive barrier and is not intended for long term exposure. While local weather conditions will dictate the length of time sheathing may be permitted to be exposed, it should perform satisfactorily if exposed to the elements for up to one month (30 days).

These are NWCB guidelines and recommendations. In mild weather, the exposure limit could be more than one month (30days). In severe weather, the exposure time could be much less. There are two significant concerns for exposure of any gypsum product to the elements (rain and/or humidity). Both concerns revolve around the issue of moisture control and keeping the gypsum sheathing dry.

1. Mold and Mildew should not be allowed to attack the core or face paper of the sheathing board.
2. The face paper should not be allowed to delaminate from the core.

Testing the Paper Bond:

Gypsum sheathing should be allowed to completely dry prior to testing the bond of the paper. Using a sharp knife or razor blade, cut a 3 inch long diagonal in the middle of the gypsum panel. Make another 3 inch cut at a right angle to the first cut forming an "X." Using the blade, peel back the paper face (in one quadrant) starting at the center of the X. Firmly holding the peeled edge between the thumb and forefinger, lift the paper face and continue removing the paper face.

If the paper splits cohesively so that it is still adhering to the underlying gypsum, the sheathing has not been overly exposed to the weather and will perform satisfactorily.

This technical document is to serve as a guideline and it is not intended for any specific construction projects. NWCB makes no express or implied warranty or guarantee of the techniques, construction methods or materials identified herein.