



This section includes updated information, added since it was first published in July 2009. Please see the WHITE BOOK update document for details.  
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## Glossary

### Angle bead

A metal or plastic angle used to reinforce external corners, e.g. Gyproc and Thistle angle bead.

### Backing coat

Undercoat plaster used as part of a two-coat plaster system, e.g. Thistle Hardwall.

### Bonding agent

Liquid preparation applied to the wall or ceiling surface prior to plastering to provide adhesion to challenging backgrounds, e.g. ThistleBond-it.

### Caulk

A joint sealing material, applied in a plastic state.

### Closing-in

The operation of consolidating the surface of a final coat plaster with a finishing trowel.

### Control joint

A joint which accepts movement in the form of lateral expansion or contraction. Allows relatively small movements to occur without damage to the internal surface.

### Core board

A version of fire-resistant and moisture resistant plasterboard with square edges and green coloured paper liners supplied in 19mm thickness. Used as an inside stud (core) board in shaft wall systems, e.g. Gyproc CoreBoard.

### Cove

A concave decorative moulding used at the wall to ceiling angle.

### Cut end

End of a gypsum board showing the exposed core.

### Decibel (dB)

A unit of magnitude for Sound Pressure, Sound Intensity, Sound Power and, in relation to Sound Insulation, the measurement of level reduction. Impact sound insulation, dB, is a measure of sound level.

### Deflection head

A special design feature at the head of a partition, which allows its integrity to be maintained while allowing movement such as floor slab or beam deflection to take place.

### Dew point

The temperature at which air becomes saturated with water vapour and below which condensation occurs.

### Door set

A complete unit consisting of a door frame and door leaf or leaves, supplied with essential hardware as a product from a single source.

### DPC

A damp-proof course (often abbreviated to DPC) providing a horizontal barrier in a wall designed to prevent moisture rising through the structure by capillary action.

### Dry construction

A general term describing wall linings, ceiling linings, lightweight partitions and separating walls in board or sheet materials, either self-finished, plastered or jointed as distinct from construction with solid plaster finishes.

### Drying shrinkage

Shrinkage caused by the evaporation of water.

### Drylining

Creating a wall or ceiling lining using plasterboard as an internal finish instead of solid plaster treatment.

### Drywall partition

Lightweight non-loadbearing construction, either self-finished, skimmed or jointed as distinct from masonry construction with solid plaster finishes.

### Drywall

A partition, separating wall or wall lining which uses plasterboard as a lining instead of solid plastering (can be skim plastered however).

### DSG

Desulphurised gypsum. A synthetic gypsum produced as a by-product of the desulphurisation process at coal-fired power stations.

### Dual-purpose compound

Jointing compound suitable for use as a bedding compound and as a finishing compound in a jointing process, e.g. Gyproc Easi-Fill.

### Edge profile of plasterboard

The bound edge of a plasterboard which is commonly square or tapered.

### Edge bead

A metal or plastic strip to protect the edges of plasterboard or to form a feature, e.g. Gyproc Drywall Metal Edge Bead.

### Efflorescence

Formation of crystals on a surface during drying, caused by the presence of soluble salts.

### Expansion joint

A permanent joint between different parts of the structure to allow relatively small movements to occur without damage to the surface.

### Face

The side of the plasterboard from which the covering paper is carried round the edges, e.g. the exposed side for direct decoration or plastering.

### Feather-edge rule

Used for working angles or for closing-in an undercoat plaster after using a floating rule. It is made of wood or metal with one edge bevelled to a thickness of about 3mm.

### Final set

The point at which the plaster mix permits no movement under the trowel.

**Field of board**

The face of plasterboard excluding the perimeter.

**Finishing coat**

The final coat in two or three-coat plasterwork, e.g. Thistle Multi-Finish.

**Finishing compound**

Jointing material applied over the bedding compound in one or more applications and which forms the final finished surface.

**Fire door**

A door that provides fire resistance.

**Fire-resistant and moisture resistant plasterboard**

A fire-resistant plasterboard with water repellent and other additives in the core, e.g. Gyproc FireLine MR.

**Fire-resistant plasterboard**

A gypsum plasterboard with greater fire protection properties than standard plasterboard, e.g. Gyproc FireLine.

**Fixed partition**

A partition that cannot be demounted without destroying, partially or totally, the integrity of the components.

**Flanking sound**

The structure-borne transmission of sound between adjacent rooms or spaces, which bypasses the obvious dividing barriers.

**Float**

Tool used in plasterwork to smooth and level the plaster surface.

**Floating coat**

The undercoat immediately preceding the final coat.

**Floating floor**

Part of a composite floor construction whereby the upper surface membrane (possibly a concrete screed or timber deck) is independently isolated (floated) from the lower structural floor by the use of a resilient underlay, an array of flexible pads, spring isolators or battens.

**Framed partition**

A partition consisting of a continuously supported frame with facings or infillings. It may take the form of a stud and sheet, frame and sheet or frame and panel partition, e.g. GypWall CLASSIC.

**Furring**

Timber or metal channels used to even-up a surface - on a wall for example, to provide a true surface to which plasterboards can be fixed, e.g. Gypframe MF10 Channel.

**Glass mineral wool**

Mineral wool manufactured from glass used for improved thermal or acoustic insulation, e.g. Isover.

**GRG board**

A gypsum board having a glass fibre reinforced core and continuous glass fibre membranes just below each surface, e.g. Glasroc F FIRECASE and Glasroc F MULTIBOARD.

**Gypsum**

Calcium sulphate dihydrate ( $\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ). A natural mineral deposit and the main raw material from which gypsum products are made.

**Gypsum adhesive**

A gypsum-based compound that, when mixed with water, provides an adhesive for use in drylining systems, e.g. Gyproc Dri-Wall Adhesive.

**Gypsum fibre board**

A building board, complying with *BS EN 15283-2: 2008*, composed of gypsum, reinforced with fibres, e.g. Rigidur H.

**Gypsum plank**

Gypsum plasterboard 19mm thick and 600mm wide, e.g. Gyproc Plank.

**Gypsum plaster, hemihydrate**

Plaster, mainly of gypsum, from which approximately three-quarters of the water has been removed.

**Gypsum plaster, pre-mixed lightweight**

Plaster in which a lightweight aggregate has been pre-mixed dry with a hemihydrate gypsum plaster to give low density.

**Gypsum plasterboard**

A building board, complying with *BS 1230 / EN 520*, composed of a core of aerated gypsum plaster bonded between two sheets of strong paper, e.g. Gyproc WallBoard.

**Hacking**

The roughening of solid backgrounds by hand or mechanical means to provide a suitable key.

**Hairline crack**

Crack just visible to the naked eye.

**Impact resistant plasterboard**

A gypsum plasterboard with a heavier duty face paper, a higher density core than standard plasterboard, and additives in the core to improve impact performance, e.g. Gyproc DuraLine.

**Impact sound**

Sound produced when short duration sources, e.g. footsteps and door slams, impact directly onto a structure.

**Independent wall lining**

A lining (often using related partition components), which is erected independently of the external walling, e.g. Gyplyner IWL.

**Insulating drylining**

Drylining using laminates composed of plasterboard and polystyrene, phenolic foam or mineral wool, e.g. Gyproc Thermaline laminates.

**Joint tape**

Tape that is embedded in the bedding compound to reinforce the joint, e.g. Gyproc Joint Tape.

**Jointing**

The process of using hand or mechanical systems for achieving a flush seamless surface on dry construction, based on tapered edge plasterboard and applicable to walls and ceilings.

**Key**

The roughness of a surface that enables plaster to make a mechanical bond with it.

**Lath**

Expanded metal mesh that is fixed to a surface to provide a mechanical key for plaster.

**Masonry partition**

A partition of brickwork or blockwork complete with any specified surface finishes, such as a drylining or plaster.

**Metal stud partition**

A partition consisting of a metal stud / channel framework and lined both sides with sheet materials, such as plasterboard. This is a form of stud and sheet partition, e.g. GypWall CLASSIC.

**Metal stud separating wall**

A metal stud / plasterboard partition that meets the separating wall requirements of Building Regulations for multi-occupancy dwellings, e.g. GypWall QUIET.

**Moisture resistant plasterboard**

A gypsum plasterboard with moisture-repellent additives in the core, which is enclosed in water-repellent green coloured paper liners, e.g. Gyproc Moisture Resistant.

**Nogging**

Cross member between main members of a framed construction. Also known as a 'dwang'.

**Noise**

Unwanted sound resulting in distraction and disturbance, interference with speech and stress or damage to hearing.

**Panel**

Decorative or functional portion of the cladding of a floor, ceiling, roof or wall supported by a concealed or exposed frame.

**Partition**

A non-loadbearing vertical construction dividing space, e.g. GypWall CLASSIC.

**Pattern staining**

Surface staining that sometimes occurs when the two sides of a composite structure are consistently exposed to different temperatures.

**Perforated ceiling**

A ceiling incorporating tile or board products available in various edge profiles and with circular, square or rectangular perforations in random or regular pattern designs, typically used in suspended ceilings to provide sound absorption, e.g. Gyptone.

**Performance partitions**

Partitions that have enhanced sound insulation, fire resistance, impact resistance, or a combination of these, e.g. GypWall ROBUST or GypWall QUIET.

**Perlite**

A lightweight aggregate produced from siliceous volcanic glass, expanded by heat. Used as an additive in some backing coat plasters.

**Plaster key**

Portion of the plaster that is pressed through metal lath and, when set, holds the plaster layer in place. Also applies to the mechanical key produced by scratching a plaster undercoat.

**Plenum**

An enclosed chamber, e.g. space between a suspended ceiling and the floor above.

**Pricking-up**

The application of the first coat of plaster on metal lathing.

**Racking resistance**

A measure of a structure's ability to resist horizontal forces, such as wind loading.

**Rendering coat**

First coat of plaster on a wall.

**Reverberation**

The persistence of sound in an enclosure, due to its continued reflection or scattering from surfaces or objects, after the sound source has ceased.

**Sarking board**

Sheet material fixed to roof framework to contribute to weather protection, which may provide a degree of racking resistance.

**Sealant**

Joint sealing material, applied in a plastic state, e.g. Gyproc Sealant.

**Security partitions**

Constructions specifically designed to be resistant to ballistic and physical attack and explosions, such as those from letter or car bombs, e.g. GypWall SECURE or BlastWall.

**Self-drilling, self-tapping**

Shank and point design of a metal screw that facilitates penetration and grip into a light gauge metal section.

**Shaft wall**

A partition or lining used to form fire protective enclosures to all forms of shafts, including service cores and lift shafts. It consists of multiple layers of gypsum plasterboard fixed to single or twin metal frames to give fire resistance, e.g. ShaftWall.

**Sheathing board**

Sheet material used in framed structures. Fixed to external wall framework to contribute to weather protection, it may provide a degree of racking resistance.

**Skin**

A single thickness of panelling or cladding or one leaf of a cavity wall. Single skin or double skin are used to describe a lining consisting of one or two skins of plasterboard.

**Soffit**

Any semi-exposed under-surface.

**Sound absorption**

Sound absorption is the loss of sound energy when striking or transmitting into a boundary surface material or obstacle, or when causing a volume of air to resonate.

**Sound leakage**

Airborne sound transmission via gaps or cracks around or through building elements and services that allow sound to escape from one area to an adjacent area, and thus lower the element's potential sound reduction properties.

**Square edge boards**

Plasterboard with a square edge profile used for textured finishes or undecorated applications, as well as being suitable to receive gypsum plaster.

**Staggered metal stud partition**

A partition based on a framework with alternative studs off-set within wide floor and ceiling tracks. This system is used where increased levels of sound insulation are required. Performances are higher than those achieved with a single row of stud, but lower than with twin framed partitions, e.g. **GypWall STAGGERED**.

**Stone wool**

Mineral wool manufactured from stone, used to improve fire resistance performance.

**Stud**

Vertical member in framed wall or partition.

**Suction**

Moisture absorption of background.

**Suspended ceiling**

A ceiling formed with boards or tiles fixed into (or onto) a grid with a cavity between the suspension system and the structural soffit, joists or trusses, e.g. **CasoLine MF**.

**Suspension system**

Grid of metal sections, consisting of main and cross members, to support ceiling panels.

**t&g**

Tongue and groove (often abbreviated to t&g), a method of fitting similar objects together, edge to edge, is used mainly with timber constructions. Tongue and groove joints allow two sections to be joined together to create a single flat surface.

**Tapered edge**

A design of a board or sheet material applicable to plasterboard particularly, and to its long bound edges to enable flush seamless jointing or plastering to be carried out in dry construction.

**Thermal laminate**

A laminate consisting of gypsum plasterboard with a backing of factory bonded insulation material, providing enhanced thermal insulation. Used to provide insulated wall and soffit linings or ceilings, e.g. Gyproc ThermoLine laminates.

**Three-coat work**

Plasterwork with rendering, floating and finishing coats. Generally used when a very high quality finish is required.

**Timber stud partition**

A partition consisting of a timber frame lined on each side with materials such as plasterboard.

**Undercoats**

Gypsum plaster or cement render coats other than the final coat, e.g. Thistle Bonding Coat.

**Vapour control plasterboard**

A gypsum plasterboard backed with metallised polyester for wall and ceiling linings, which enables the lining and the vapour check membrane to be fixed in one operation, e.g. Gyproc WallBoard DUPLEX.

**Vapour control layer**

A material (usually a membrane) that reduces the transfer of water vapour through a building element in which it is incorporated.

**Vermiculite**

A lightweight aggregate produced from micaceous material exfoliated by heat.

**Working time**

The period during which a plaster mix is workable, i.e. does not significantly stiffen.

**X-ray plaster**

Plaster containing barytes (barium sulphate BaSO<sub>4</sub>) as the aggregate, which gives protection or shielding from electro-magnetic radiation, e.g. Thistle X-Ray plaster.