



LIGHTWEIGHT, RIGID GYPSUM BASE FOR ECONOMICAL APPLICATION OF VENEER PLASTERS

DESCRIPTION

USG SHEETROCK® BRAND ULTRALIGHT GYPSUM BASE IMPERIAL®

- The lightest 1/2" gypsum base for veneer plaster available
- Easier to lift, carry and install
- Special multi-layered laminated face paper to control water absorption, provide maximum plaster bond, and resist sag

USG Sheetrock® Brand UltraLight Gypsum Base Imperial® is a re-engineered, lightweight gypsum panel with a high strength-to-weight ratio composite design. The noncombustible, lightweight gypsum core is encased in 100% recycled paper. The distinctive blue face paper is ideally engineered for the application of veneer plaster, i.e., it controls water absorption, provides for a strong plaster bond, and resists plaster slide. The panels provide a rigid base that resists sag. When securely attached, the lightweight gypsum base adds lateral stability to the assembly. Also, gypsum base partitions faced with gypsum plaster on both sides have high resistance to sound transmission. Resilient attachment further improves ratings.

USG Sheetrock® UltraLight Gypsum Base Imperial is designed to be used with the following plaster products: USG Imperial® Brand Veneer Finish, USG Diamond® Brand Veneer Finish, USG Apex® Brand Veneer Finish, USG Norfolk Special Veneer Finish, USG Imperial Veneer Basecoat and USG Diamond Veneer Basecoat.

LIMITATIONS

1. USG Sheetrock® UltraLight Gypsum Base Imperial should only be used with veneer plaster products.
2. USG Sheetrock® UltraLight Gypsum Base Imperial should not be used in areas exposed to excessive moisture or as a base for adhesive application of ceramic tile (USG Sheetrock® Gypsum Panels Mold Tough® or USG Durock® Brand cement board are recommended for this use).
3. Do not apply Diamond veneer finish, or any lime containing finish plaster to USG Imperial gypsum base that has faded from exposure to sunlight. Where fading has occurred, treat surface with either USG™ Plaster Bonder or a spray-applied solution of USG™ Accelerator-Alum Catalyst before application of finish.
4. Gypsum base surfaces should be isolated with control joints or other means where: (a) Partition or furring abuts a structural element (except floor) or dissimilar wall or ceiling; (b) Ceiling abuts a structural element, dissimilar wall or partition, or other vertical penetration; (c) Construction changes within the plane of the partition or ceiling; (d) Partitions or furring run exceeds 30'; (e) Ceiling dimensions exceed 30' without relief, or 50' with relief; (f) Expansion or control joints occur in the base exterior wall. Ceiling-height door frames may be used as control joints, as may door frames that are less than ceiling height, if control joints extend to ceiling from both corners.
5. Must be stored off the ground and under cover. Avoid exposure to excessive, repetitive or continues moisture before, during and after installation. Eliminate sources of moisture immediately.
6. Avoid direct sunlight and temperatures exceeding 125°F (52°C).
7. Do not exceed the maximum spacing of framing members shown in the table below:

Maximum spacing of framing members for new construction:

Panel Thickness		Base and finish assembly	Framing spacing ⁽¹⁾	
in.	mm		in.	mm
1/2	12.7	Imperial gypsum base one layer, 1-coat system	16	406.4
		one layer, 2-coat system	16 or 24 ⁽²⁾	406.4 or 609.6 ⁽²⁾
		two layer, 1 & 2-coat system	24	609.6

(1) For perpendicular or parallel application to framing. Perpendicular is preferred for maximum strength; parallel application is not recommended for ceilings.

(2) 24" (609.6 mm) spacing requires joint treatment with USG Sheetrock® joint tape and USG Sheetrock® setting-type joint compound (Durabond® or Easy Sand™)



PREPARATION

Protect the product from moisture during storage and on the job. In cold weather, heat the interior of the building to a minimum of 55 °F (13 °C) for an adequate period before the application of plaster, while basecoat and finish is being applied, and until the finish is dry. Air circulation should be kept at a minimum level during this period.

Warning: Store all USG Sheetrock® UltraLight Gypsum Base Imperial flat. Panels can fall over, causing serious injury or death. Do not move unless authorized.

Under normal working conditions, joints of veneer plaster systems may be treated by applying USG Imperial® Tape Type P (pressure-sensitive) or Type S (staple) to the joints and then applying the veneer plaster basecoat or finish to preset the tape. However, there are a number of special situations that require the use of a setting-type joint treatment system.

- High building temperature, low humidity or excessive evaporation that creates “rapid drying” conditions.
- Metal framing is specified.
- Certain wood-framing applications with spacing of 24” o.c. (see Maximum Spacing table above).

Under any of these conditions, use USG Sheetrock® Joint Tape and USG Sheetrock® Setting-Type (Durabond) or USG Sheetrock® Lightweight Setting-Type (Easy Sand) Joint Compound to treat all joints and internal angles. Allow the joint treatment to set and dry thoroughly before plaster application. See Plastering Technical Guide PM3 on usg.com for more installation details.

INSTALLATION

USG Sheetrock® UltraLight Gypsum Base Imperial may be installed either perpendicular (preferred) or parallel to the framing. All ends and edges should be placed over framing members except where edge joints are perpendicular to framing. Use maximum practical lengths to minimize end joints. Install gypsum base first on ceilings and then on walls. Over steel studs, arrange direction of installation so that the lead edge of the base is attached to the open side of the stud flange first. Bring base panels into contact with each other, but do not force into place. Fit abutting ends and edges neatly; stagger end joints; arrange joints on opposite sides of partition so they occur on different studs.

Begin driving fasteners in center of panel and work toward ends and edges, holding gypsum base in firm contact with framing. Space fasteners as shown in table and not less than 3/8” from edges and ends of panel. Drive fastener heads flush with surface without breaking the face paper. If gypsum base appears to be loose from framing, install additional fasteners. Float vertical and horizontal interior corners by placing fasteners 8” out from the corner. Where framing is parallel with the corner, attach one panel to corner framing and float the abutting panel. Cut and fit gypsum base neatly around pipes and other openings. Remove loose face paper around cuts and use quick-setting plaster to close openings.

Control Joints: Apply control joints, where required, over the face of the gypsum base. Cut to required lengths with fine-toothed hack saw. Cut end joints square, align and butt together slightly gapped. Attach the control joint to gypsum base temporarily with 9/16” rosin-coated staples spaced 12” o.c. along each flange. Complete the installation of the control joint with fasteners (nails or screws) driven through the control joint flange into the framing on each side of the joint. The protective plastic tape over the open groove should be left in place until finishing is completed.

Corner Beads and Trims: For the application of corner beads and trims, see Plastering Technical Guide PM20 on usg.com.





INSTALLATION

Acoustical Sealant: Seal edges of gypsum base around entire perimeter of partition. Also, seal air-tight all penetrations of the gypsum base, particularly electrical boxes. In addition to sealing the perimeter of electrical boxes, coat the back sides with a layer of acoustical sealant. Apply acoustical sealant under control joints and similar openings between the gypsum base and abutting materials.

FINISHING AND DECORATING

See USG Diamond® Brand Finish Plaster submittal sheet P777 or USG Imperial® Brand Finish Plaster submittal sheet P775 on usg.com for finishing and decorating instructions.

PRODUCT DATA

Thickness, in. (mm)	1/2" (12.7)
Lengths, ft. (mm)	8 - 12 (2438-3658)
Widths, ft., (mm ²)	48" (1218) or 54" (1370)
Weight ² , nominal, lbs./sq. ft., (Kg/m ²)	1.25 - 1.35 (6.10 - 6.59)
Edges	Tapered or square
Packaging	2 panels per bundle
Thermal Resistance "R"	0.45°F x ft ² x h/Btu (0.08 K x m ² /W)
Hygrometric Coefficient of Expansion: Unrestrained: 10—90% r.h.	7.2 10 ⁻⁶ in./in./% r.h. (7.2 x 10 ⁻⁶ mm/mm/% r.h.) (7.2 μm/m/% r.h.)
Thermal Coefficient of Expansion: Unrestrained: 40—100 °F (4—38 °C)	9.0 10 ⁻⁶ in./in./°F (16.2 x 10 ⁻⁶ mm/mm/°C) (16.2 μm/m/°C)

See note below

- Other sizes available by special order. Check with your local USG representative for availability.
- Represents approximate weight for design and shipping purposes. For specific product weight in your area, contact your local USG representative or call the Customer Service Center at 1-800-950-3839.

COMPLIANCE

- USG Sheetrock® UltraLight Gypsum Base Imperial® complies with ASTM C1396
- Per ASTM E136, noncombustible gypsum core
- Per ASTM E84, flame spread is 0; smoke developed is 0
- Low VOC Emissions Classification, CHPS compliant

PRODUCT INFORMATION

See usg.com for the most up-to-date product information.

WARNING

Dust can contain silica. Prolonged and repeated breathing of silica dust can cause lung damage and cancer. If cutting with a power tool, use a wet or vacuum saw to reduce the amount of dust generated. Dust can be corrosive to eyes, skin, and respiratory tract. Contact can cause severe chemical burns. Wear eye, skin and respiratory protection. If eye contact occurs, flush immediately with water for 30 minutes. If ingested, call physician. Product safety information: 800-507-8899 or usg.com Customer Service: 800 USG-4-YOU (800 874-4968).

KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN.

TRADEMARKS

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NOTE

Products described here may not be available in all geographic markets. Consult your United States Gypsum Company sales office or representative for information.

NOTICE

We shall not be liable for incidental and consequential damages, directly or indirectly sustained, nor for any loss caused by application of these goods not in accordance with current printed instructions or for other than the intended use. Our liability is expressly limited to replacement of defective goods. Any claim shall be deemed waived unless made in writing to us within thirty (30) days from date it was or reasonably should have been discovered.

SAFETY FIRST!

Follow good safety/industrial hygiene practices during installation. Wear appropriate personal protective equipment. Read MSDS and literature before specification and installation.

SUBMITTAL APPROVALS

Job Name	
Contractor	Date

Manufactured by
United States Gypsum Company
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Chicago, IL 60661

800 USG.4YOU
800 (874-4968)
usg.com

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