

GLOSSARY

See definitions of the most common terms related to drywall materials, tools and installation techniques.

BED COAT

The first coat of joint compound or mud applied over the seams between installed sheets of drywall, “dimple” indentations made by fasteners, and other uneven areas.

BLOCK COAT

The second coat of joint compound or mud that’s spread on top of drywall tape to seal it in place.

CAULKING GUN

A tool that holds a tube or cartridge that’s filled with material used for sealing gaps and cracks.

CEMENT BOARD

An underlayment for ceramic tile tub and shower surrounds, countertops, flooring and a variety of other interior and exterior applications. It withstands prolonged exposure to moisture.

CORNER BEAD

Attached after drywall is hung, before mudding and taping begins. It helps protect the inside and outside corners against damage and creates sharp, flat corners for a better appearance.

COUNTERSINK

You countersink a screw by drilling a hole the same size as or slightly larger than the head of the screw so it is either flush with or below the drywall surface paper, making it easier to cover with joint compound or mud.

DRYWALL

A paper-covered panel of compressed gypsum or synthetic gypsum used as the interior wall covering in most homes. Also known as wallboard or gypsum board.

DRYWALL ADHESIVE

A compound, glue or resin used in the application of drywall to framing or laminating one or more layers of drywall.

DRYWALL HAMMER

A special hammer with a wide beveled head used in the installation or removal of drywall. Also known as an ax or hatchet.

DRYWALL PRIMER

A tinting base coat of paint to seal the surface.

DRYWALL SAW

A tool with the same design as a kitchen knife. Used to cut drywall in the same manner as a keyhole saw.

DRYWALL SEAM

Where the edges of installed drywall meet.

DUST MASK

A flexible cover with elastic straps worn over the nose and mouth to protect against breathing in dust during construction.

FASTENER

Special nails and screws that provide a strong drywall hold to framing.

FINISHING KNIFE

A flat, wide knife tool used to apply joint compound, also called mud.

GRIDMARX®

Guide marks, printed right on the paper surface of PURPLE® drywall, so installers can instantly find the fastener line for studs and make accurate cuts without having to draw any lines. They also help to quickly identify nail/screw patterns, virtually eliminating the need to measure between these fasteners.

GYPNUM BOARD

The generic name for a family of panel products that consist of a noncombustible core, composed primarily of gypsum or synthetic gypsum, and a paper surfacing on the face, back and long edges. Also called drywall or wallboard.

JOINT

Where two panels of drywall come together. Depending on where they are located, they can be butt joints, tapered joints or corner joints.

JOINT COMPOUND

A compound used for taping or finishing drywall, or both.

JOINT TAPE

Paper tape that conceals and reinforces drywall joints.

KEYHOLE SAW

A narrow pointed handsaw used especially for cutting curves of short radius. Sometimes called a drywall saw.

MILDEW

Mildew and mold are growths of fungi on various surfaces. The difference between mold and mildew usually is in its appearance and the surfaces on which it is growing. Mold often is thicker and black, green, red or blue in color, and mildew usually is light, powdery and gray or white. Mold and mildew often grow in moist and warm locations. Mildew is most often found in showers, on paper and on fabrics, while mold is most often found on foods and in walls and other permanent structures.

MOISTURE

Condensed or diffused liquid, especially water; a small quantity of liquid, especially water; enough water to moisten.

MOLD

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MUD

Another name for joint compound.

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MUD PAN

A pan specially designed for mixing and using joint compound.

NAIL POP

The protrusion of a nail usually attributed to the shrinking of or use of improperly cured wood framing.

PANEL ADHESIVE

A compound, glue or resin used in the application of drywall to framing or for laminating one or more layers of drywall.

RASP

A coarse file to smooth ragged end cuts or trim drywall.

READY MIXED COMPOUND

Factory-mixed joint compound in ready-to-use form.

SAFETY GOGGLES

Eye protection that is crucial on construction or remodeling projects. Also called safety glasses or personal protective equipment (PPE).

SANDER

A hand-held power tool used to smooth and finish drywall by abrasion with sandpaper.

SANDPAPER

Paper covered on one side with abrasive materials used for smoothing surfaces.

SEAM

A common term for treated drywall joints.

SCORE AND SNAP

To cut a surface with a sharp blade and then break apart.

SKIM COAT

A thin coat of joint treatment over the entire surface to reduce surface texture and equalize variations.

SPOTTING

Using joint compound to cover uneven spots or “dimples” created by fasteners such as nails or screws used to hang drywall.

STUD

A vertical framed structure to which drywall is attached.

SUPPORTS

Temporary T-braces that help in supporting drywall weight in ceiling installations.

T-SQUARE

A tool used to help cut drywall to size. Extended to 48 inches, it's long enough to aid in making an even, straight cut across the entire width of a sheet of drywall.

TRIM

The process of cutting drywall in place with a knife or trimming corner beads. Also embellishments to drywall.

TROWEL

A hand tool for applying smooth thin coats of joint compound.

UTILITY KNIFE

A knife with a small sharp blade, often retractable, used for cutting drywall.

UTILITY SAW

A short handsaw with very coarse teeth for cutting drywall for door and window frame openings.

WALLBOARD

Another name for drywall or gypsum board.

WATER DAMAGE

Standard drywall can be damaged by moisture, so it's wise to choose moisture-resistant drywall with added mold and mildew resistance.

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