



Technical Services Bulletin

INSTALLING PLASTERBOARD SYSTEMS A GUIDE TO GOOD PRACTICE IN WINTER

The following guidelines apply to the use of plasterboard on site at any time, but are particularly important during winter months when conditions are at their worst.

They combine the requirements of BS 8000: part 8 with Knauf recommendations. Remember that once plasterboard has been allowed to absorb a significant amount of moisture its condition and fitness for purpose can no longer be guaranteed.

STORAGE

- Always store plasterboard in a dry location, covered from the elements and damage from site traffic and raised off the ground
- Stack no more than 1 pallet high, on bearers at least 60mm wide (BS 8000: part 8, actually specifies 1 pallet high only, with bearers 100mm wide)
- Bearers should be laid across the width of the board at centres not exceeding 400mm
- Store bagged products on pallets in a dry location. Use strictly in date rotation.

HANDLING

- Carry boards on edge. Do not drag boards over each other
- Store boards with decorative faces together until ready for use
- If lifting using slings, use spreaders to prevent edge damage

IN USE

- Ensure that working areas are weatherproof (roof, windows, etc. in place as necessary)
- Do not use in areas which in end use will experience temperatures above 50°C or constant humidity of 90% (95% for Moistureshield boards)
- Plasters and jointing compounds must not be applied to frozen backgrounds, or in conditions where the ambient temperature is above 40°C or below 4°C
- Ensure tools and buckets are clean when mixing jointing or plaster products – use only clean water
- Setting times may be affected by ambient conditions (e.g., temperature, humidity)
- Remember: site conditions must be sufficiently dry. Excessive moisture in blockwork backgrounds, etc., can cause movement after installation of the plasterboard system that will increase the risk of cracking of joints and plaster finishes.
- Rapid heating after installation of jointing or plaster finishes may also cause cracking.

For and on behalf of
KNAUF UK GmbH

Knauf Drywall Technical Services

The above is to be read in conjunction with Knauf standard terms and conditions and current applicable product and system warranties.

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