



**Applications**

Rapid Deco Level 5 is the best solution for areas specified for a Level 5 finish, such as:

- Hotel lobbies and interior public spaces
- Board rooms and conference rooms
- Office atriums and hallways
- High-end residential housing
- Any area where critical lighting or gloss paints are specified in which a smooth finish is desired

**Advantages**

- Provides an equivalent to a field-applied Level 5 finish in the same number of steps as a Level 4 finish
- Creates a uniform surface and the highest-quality finish
- Provides consistent job results
- Minimizes jobsite application labor and reduces cost over a field-applied Level 5 finish
- Installs in the same manner as traditional drywall — no special tools or enhanced skills required
- Superior Level 5 results in less time
- Very low flame spread

JOB NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTRACTOR: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**Level 5 Skim-Coated Drywall**

**RAPID DECO®**

**LEVEL 5**

**Lafarge Rapid Deco Level 5** skim-coated drywall is a gypsum board pre-finished with a specially formulated skim-coat material to facilitate finishing to a Level 5 finish. This skim coat is factory-applied to provide a consistent and uniform finish.

Rapid Deco Level 5 skim-coated drywall is installed in the same manner as traditional drywall and finished with Lafarge's Rapid Deco Level 5 joint compound to easily and quickly produce a Level 5 finish. (Please refer to the Lafarge Rapid Deco Level 5 joint compound submittal sheet for technical information).

Rapid Deco Level 5 skim-coated drywall is designed for use in applications that require direct mechanical attachment to wood or metal wall or ceiling framing, or attachment to existing surfaces using fasteners or adhesives. May also be used as a thermal barrier in roof assemblies when specified by the roofing manufacturer.

While Rapid Deco Level 5 skim-coated drywall has some inherent fire-resistant characteristics, this product should not be used to provide the levels of fire resistance required by various building codes and standards. For fire resistance, use Lafarge Rapid Deco Level 5 Type X skim-coated drywall. When properly sealed and used in a certified sound-rated assembly, Rapid Deco Level 5 skim-coated drywall will contribute to the required sound transmission classification (STC) values.

Note: Rapid Deco Level 5 skim-coated drywall is suitable for interior applications only and should not be used where temperatures exceed 125° F for extended periods or in areas of extreme humidity. Likewise, the board should be protected from exposure to adverse conditions during storage and construction.

**Rapid Deco Level 5 System**

The Lafarge Rapid Deco Level 5 System consists of a skim-coated drywall and a specially formulated matching joint compound. Used together, they create a consistent, smooth surface across the finished wall. This innovative system is designed to provide an equivalent substitution to a field-applied Level 5 finish (per ASTM C 840) and address technical performance and design issues concerning critical lighting and special paint treatment requirements.



## Sustainability

Can contribute to the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED Credit Qualification in several credit categories to assist in obtaining LEED certification. Visit [www.lafargenorthamerica.com](http://www.lafargenorthamerica.com) for more details on specific credit contribution and documentation.



Limitations: Rapid Deco Level 5 is designed to replicate a field-applied skim coat. A skim coat will not approximate a plastered surface. For an entirely smooth, blemish-free surface, a veneer plaster or hard-wall plaster system is recommended. See Gypsum Association publication GA-214 for additional details on skim coating.

Lafarge cannot control the workmanship of the installed or finished product. Finish satisfaction will only be obtained when proper installation practices are followed and products are properly used. Care must be taken to ensure all joints, trim and fasteners are properly treated and are flat to the plane of the board surface.

Lafarge cannot control the painting and decorating process. Architectural specifications for decoration and manufacturer's product application instructions must be strictly followed to obtain finish satisfaction.

\*The federal specification for gypsum board, SS-L-30d, was withdrawn in 1984. It is provided here for information only and should not be referenced for new construction.



## Physical Characteristics

**Core:** Non-combustible, dimensionally stable, inert gypsum

**Paper:** 100% recycled; Face paper coated with a specially formulated skim-coat material; Edges = ivory, back = gray

**Long Edges:** Tapered

**Asbestos free;** GREENGUARD certified

## Available Sizes:

Nominal thickness 1/2 in.

Nominal width 4 ft.

Standard lengths 10 ft. and 12 ft.  
(other lengths available by special order)

Nominal weight 1.8 lbs./ft.<sup>2</sup>

## Standards and Codes

Rapid Deco Level 5 skim-coated drywall is formulated to perform in accordance with ASTM C 1396, Section 5, Gypsum Wallboard and C 36 (factory-finished per ASTM C 840 Level 5); \*Federal Specification SS-L-30D, Type III, Grade R; and CAN/CSA-A82.27-M.

## Technical Specifications

Underwriters Laboratories (UL) classified for surface burning (File No. R16102) (tested in accordance with ASTM E 84) Flame spread = 0; Smoke developed = 0

Core combustibility (tested in conformance with ASTM E 136) Non-combustible

## Installation

Install according to Gypsum Association GA-216 or ASTM C 840.

Rapid Deco Level 5 skim-coated drywall cuts, fastens, curves and finishes with traditional hand tools and the same skill level required for traditional drywall.

## Painting and Decorating

It is recommended that a visual inspection be done prior to painting to confirm that proper finishing practices have been followed to avoid anomalies in the painting and decorating process. For best results, a good gypsum board primer should be applied in accordance with manufacturer's instructions before painting or before any texture material is applied.

## Handling and Finishing

Stack flat, keep dry and lift (do not drag) to avoid scuffing. Avoid damage to edges. For detailed recommendations, refer to GA-216 and GA-801. Rapid Deco Level 5 joint compound should be used for best match to Rapid Deco Level 5 drywall. Refer to GA-214 for more finishing recommendations.

## Safety Precautions

Wear safety glasses and NIOSH-approved respirators during cutting, breaking, rasping or other dust-producing activities.

Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) are available for all Lafarge products upon request.



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