

# FIBEROCK® Brand AQUA-TOUGH™ Interior Panels



## Description

FIBEROCK® Brand AQUA-TOUGH™ Interior Panels represent a new era in substrate performance. These panels are designed for wall assemblies in high-traffic areas where moisture, mold and fire resistance are especially important.

## Advantages

- Abuse Resistant** Engineered to provide increased resistance to abrasion, indentation and penetration. Outperforms paper-faced or glass mat faced panels. FIBEROCK Brand AQUA-TOUGH Interior Panels have no paper face to tear or scratch.
- Water Resistant** FIBEROCK Brand AQUA-TOUGH Interior Panels are water resistant through the core and intended for use in intermittently wet areas including tub surrounds.
- Mold Resistant** In independent lab tests per ASTM D3273-00 “Standard Test Method for Resistance to Growth of Mold on the Surface of Interior Coatings in an Environmental Chamber,” the score for FIBEROCK Brand AQUA-TOUGH Interior Panels was 10 (highest score).
- Fire Resistant** These panels offer superior fire resistance and demonstrate exceptional surface burning characteristics (ASTM E84 Flame Spread 5, Smoke Development 0). The 5/8” panels are UL Classified for fire resistance (FRX-G) and listed in more than 50 UL wall designs.
- Finishing Flexibility** FIBEROCK Brand AQUA-TOUGH Interior Panels feature a smooth, paintable surface that can also be finished with ceramic tile.
- Environmentally Friendly** Made from 95% recycled materials. Awarded Green Cross Certification from Scientific Certification Systems.

## Limitations

1. Panels should not be exposed to sustained temperatures above 125 °F (51.6 °C).
2. For fire-resistant or abuse-resistant construction over steel framing, a minimum of 20 gauge steel framing is required.
3. Do not use in areas subject to standing water—for example gang showers, saunas or hot-tub decks.  
**WARNING:** Store all FIBEROCK Brand AQUA-TOUGH Interior Panels flat. Panels are heavy and can fall over, causing serious injury or death.

## Product Data

### Dimensions

Thickness/in.	Edge	Width/ft.	Length/ft.
1/2"	Square	3' and 4'	5'
1/2"	Tapered	4'	8' – 12'
5/8"	Tapered	4'	8' – 12'

### Compliance with Standards

Meets ASTM C1278 and meets or exceeds the physical property requirements of ASTM C630 and ASTM C1178.

### Code Compliance

SBCCI Report Number 2006, BOCA 99-54, ICBO ER-5578 and NER-684. FIBEROCK Brand AQUA-TOUGH Interior Panels installation information is listed in the current Tile Council of America (TCA) Handbook for Ceramic Tile Installation.

### Framing and Fastener Spacing

	Thickness	Framing Spacing	Maximum Fastener Spacing	
			Nails	Screws
<b>Walls</b>	1/2"	16" o.c.	8" o.c.	16" o.c.
	1/2"	24" o.c.	8" o.c.	12" o.c.
	5/8"	16" o.c.	8" o.c.	16" o.c.
	5/8"	24" o.c.	8" o.c.	12" o.c.
<b>Ceilings</b>	1/2"	16" o.c.	7" o.c.	12" o.c.
	1/2"	24" o.c.*	—	—
	5/8"	16" o.c.	7" o.c.	12" o.c.
	5/8"	24" o.c.	7" o.c.	12" o.c.

\* Not permitted in wet areas.

**Note:** for UL fire-rated partition designs, refer to the specific UL design for proper fastener spacing.

<b>Good Design Practices</b>	<b>1 System Performance</b>	<p>Systems covered herein have been tested and evaluated for use as described. For other system applications, consult your local representative.</p> <p>All details, specifications and data contained in this literature are intended as a general guide for using FIBEROCK Brand AQUA-TOUGH Interior Panel systems.</p> <p>Information in this publication should be used only for FIBEROCK Brand AQUA-TOUGH Interior Panel systems, as physical properties of competitive products may vary. United States Gypsum Company assumes no liability for failure resulting from the use of alternative materials or improper application or installation as specified herein.</p> <p>United States Gypsum Company will provide building officials and design professionals upon written request with certification for published fire, sound and structural data covering systems constructed with these products and assembled to meet established performance requirements.</p>
	<b>2 Expansion and Contraction</b>	<p>Surfaces should be isolated with surface control joints or other means where: (a) a wall abuts a structural element; (b) construction changes within the plane of the wall.</p> <p>Location of control joints is the responsibility of the design professional/architect. Double-framing members at control joints shall be spaced 1/2" apart. Attach control joint with 9/16" staples spaced 6" o.c. maximum in each flange. Cut end joints square and align for neat fit. Remove protective tape when joint treatment is completed. Do not apply tile or finishes over control joint. For alternate methods of forming control joints, refer to the Gypsum Construction Handbook (USG literature item H17).</p>
	<b>3 Vapor Retarder</b>	<p>Panels to receive an impervious finish, such as ceramic tile, should not be installed over a vapor retarder or on a wall acting as a vapor retarder.</p>

**Specifications**

<b>Part 1: General</b>	<b>1.1 Scope</b>	Specify to meet project requirements.
	<b>1.2 Qualifications</b>	All materials, unless otherwise indicated, shall be manufactured by United States Gypsum Company and shall be installed in accordance with its current printed directions.
	<b>1.3 Delivery and Storage of Materials</b>	<p>All materials shall be delivered in their original unopened packages and stored in an enclosed shelter providing protection from damage and exposure to the elements. Damaged or deteriorated materials shall be removed from the premises.</p> <p><b>WARNING:</b> Store all FIBEROCK Brand AQUA-TOUGH Interior Panels flat. Panels are heavy and can fall over, causing serious injury or death. Do not move unless authorized.</p>
	<b>1.4 Environmental Conditions</b>	In cold weather and during FIBEROCK Brand AQUA-TOUGH Interior Panel installation, joint finishing, and tile application, temperatures within the building shall be maintained at a minimum of 55 °F. Adequate ventilation shall be provided to carry off excess moisture. Wood framing shall approximate the moisture content it will reach in service prior to the application of the panels. Allow FIBEROCK Brand AQUA-TOUGH Interior Panels to acclimate to the temperature and humidity conditions at the jobsite prior to installation.
	<b>1.5 Framing</b>	Steel or wood wall framing to receive FIBEROCK Brand AQUA-TOUGH Interior Panels shall be structurally sound and in general compliance with local building code requirements. Damaged and excessively bowed studs shall be replaced before installation of FIBEROCK Brand AQUA-TOUGH Interior Panels. Framing shall be designed not to exceed L/360 deflection for tile applications. For fire-resistant or abuse-resistant construction, steel framing must be 20 gauge or heavier with corrosion-resistant metal coating equivalent to G40 hot-dipped galvanized.

	<b>1.6 Installation Practices</b>	<p>Cut FIBEROCK Brand AQUA-TOUGH Interior Panels to size with a utility knife and straight edge. Use a power saw only if equipped with a dust-collection device. Panels may be cut by scoring and snapping or by sawing, working from the face side.</p> <p>When using the score-and-snap method, score the panel twice and snap the panel away from the cut face. The backside of the panels is then broken by snapping the panel in the reverse direction. If a power-operated saw is used, a low-RPM unit with 3-1/2" carbide blade is recommended.</p> <p>When necessary, use a rasp or SURFORM® to smooth cut edges. Holes for pipes, fixtures and other small openings can be cut out with a saw or a drywall router equipped with a special bit (available from Rotozip Tool Corporation). When a router is used, hold panels away from the wall.</p> <p>Contractors installing tile and tile-setting materials should always follow current ANSI specifications, TCA guidelines and the specifications of the surfacing materials manufacturer.</p>
<b>Part 2: Products</b>	<b>2.1 Materials</b>	<p><b>A.</b> FIBEROCK Brand AQUA-TOUGH Interior Panels, 1/2" or 5/8" thickness, 36" or 48" width and lengths of 4' to 12'.</p> <p><b>B.</b> Joint Reinforcement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Tiled areas: DUROCK® Brand Joint Tape with latex-fortified mortar or latex-based Type I mastic.</li> <li>– Untiled areas: SHEETROCK Brand Joint Tape, SHEETROCK Brand Setting-Type Joint Compound (DURABOND).</li> </ul> <p><b>C.</b> Fasteners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Corrosion-resistant TYPE W or TYPE S buglehead screws for wood framing (tile surfaces only).</li> <li>– Hot-dipped galvanized roofing nails for wood framing.</li> <li>– Corrosion-resistant TYPE S-12 buglehead screws for 20-14 ga. steel framing.</li> </ul> <p><b>D.</b> Adhesives/Mortars</p> <p>Products:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Meeting ASTM C557.73: multiple purpose adhesives</li> <li>– Meeting ANSI A136.1: type I organic adhesive.</li> <li>– Meeting ANSI A118.4: latex modified portland cement mortar.</li> </ul> <p><b>E.</b> Grout—Products meeting ANSI A118.6, A118.3 (Epoxy): specify type.</p> <p><b>F.</b> Tile—Tile shall meet ANSI A137.1.</p>
<b>Part 3: Execution</b>	<b>3.1 Wall Applications</b>	<p><b>A.</b> Framing – Space wood and steel framing a maximum of 24" o.c. Framing shall be designed not to exceed L360 deflection for tile and L240 for flexible finishes like paint.</p> <p><b>B.</b> Cut panels to size with a utility knife and straight edge. Use a power saw only if equipped with a dust-collection device.</p> <p><b>C.</b> Position all ends and edges of panels over framing members, except when joints are at right angles to framing members, as in perpendicular applications or when end joints are back-blocked.</p> <p><b>D.</b> Install panels vertically whenever possible. End joints should be loosely fit. Install panels a minimum of 3/8" above the floor. Stagger end joints in successive courses with joints on opposite sides of a partition placed on different studs.</p> <p><b>E.</b> Attach panels to framing supports by spacing fasteners not less than 3/8" from edges and ends of panels and drive as recommended for specified fastening method. Drive fasteners in field of panels first, working toward ends and edges.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>a.</b> Wood framing – Use corrosion-resistant Type W or Type S buglehead screws or hot-dipped galvanized roofing nails. Fasteners must be of sufficient length to ensure a minimum 3/4" penetration into wood framing.</li> <li><b>b.</b> Steel Framing – Use Corrosion-resistant Type S-12 buglehead screws for 25-12 ga steel framing. When using 25 ga steel framing fasteners should be spaced no greater than 8" o.c. Fasteners must be of sufficient length to ensure a minimum of 3/8" penetration into steel framing.</li> </ul>

**3.2  
Tub Surrounds**

- A.** Panel Application—After tub, shower pan or receptor is installed, place temporary 1/4" spacer strips or shims around lip of fixture. Pre-cut board to required sizes and make necessary cut-outs. Fit ends and edges closely but not forced together. Install board abutting top of spacer strip. Stagger end joints in successive courses. Fasten panels to wood studs spaced max. 24" o.c. with corrosion-resistant screws or hot-dipped galvanized roofing nails. For steel studs (14-25 ga.), use corrosion-resistant screws. For fastener spacing requirement, refer to table on page two.
- B.** Seal all openings around pipes, fittings and fixtures with waterproof flexible sealant. Allow areas to dry thoroughly prior to tile application. Wipe excess material from surface of panels. Remove spacer strips but do not caulk the gap at the bottom of panel.
- C.** A waterproof membrane (ANSI A118.10) must be over upward-facing horizontal applications in wet areas.

**3.3  
Ceilings**

- A.** Framing—Must be capable of supporting the total ceiling system dead load, including insulation, ceramic tile, bonding materials and panels, with deflection not exceeding L/360 of the span for tiled surfaces.
- B.** Panel Application—Center end or edge joints on framing. Stagger end joints in successive courses. Fit ends and edges closely but not forced together. Fasten boards to framing using recommended fastener table on page one.

**3.4  
Joint Treatment  
Application**

- A.** For Tiled Areas—Embed DUROCK Brand Joint Tape in latex-fortified mortar or latex-based Type I mastic over the joint. Use the same material as specified for tile setting.
- B.** For Untiled Areas—Embed SHEETROCK Brand Joint Tape in SHEETROCK Brand Setting-Type Joint Compound (DURABOND) and wipe with a joint knife, leaving a thin coating of joint compound over all joints and interior angles. Complete to level of finish specified in project requirements.

**3.5  
Interior Ceramic Tile  
Application**

Follow ANSI Specifications and TCA Guidelines.

**Submittal  
Approvals:**

<b>Job Name</b>		
<b>Contractor</b>		<b>Date</b>

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**Note**  
Products described here may not be available in all geographic markets. Consult your U.S. Gypsum Company sales office or representative for information.

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**Safety First!**  
Follow good safety and industrial hygiene practices during handling and installation of all products and systems. Take necessary precautions and wear the appropriate personal protective equipment as needed. Read material safety data sheets and related literature on products before specification and/or installation.

