Will Your Walls Face Abuse Or Impact?

Pat Grotlisch and Amy Hockett

Theoretically, if you put “Abuse Resistant” in the boxing ring with “Impact Resistant,” which one would be the heavyweight champion? Both gypsum panels are tough, but we would bet on “Impact Resistant.”

Both Abuse Resistant (AR) and Impact Resistant (IR) gypsum panels protect high-traffic areas where interior wall damage is more likely to occur, but there are distinct differences between them. There are also specific applications for each, depending on the amount of stress your wall assembly will encounter.

**Abuse Resistant gypsum board (Gold Bond® brand Hi-Abuse® XP® Gypsum Board)**

Will hard objects potentially drag along the wall surface? Abuse Resistant panels are designed for use in wall assemblies where surface abrasion is a concern, so AR = “surface of the board.” Areas prone to surface abrasion and indentation include: Corridors, entryways, lobby areas and warehouses.

**Impact Resistant gypsum board (Gold Bond® brand Hi-Impact® XP® Gypsum Board)**

Is it likely that heavy objects could strike or penetrate the wall? Impact Resistant panels, with a little more muscle, are designed for use where abuse and impact resistance is needed, so IR = “intrusion into the wall cavity.” Areas prone to cavity penetration include: Gymnasiums, correctional facilities, schools and workshops.

To simplify the process, National Gypsum offers an excellent choice for both AR and IR gypsum panels. You can count on Gold Bond® brand XP® Gypsum Board when you need a moisture and mold resistant paper-faced panel with exceptional surface durability (Hi-Abuse XP®) or impact resistance (Hi-Impact XP®).

Our Gold Bond® brand XP® Gypsum Board line features coated fiberglass facers as well as an enhanced moisture and mold resistant gypsum core. This line also features superior AR (Gold Bond® brand XP® Interior Extreme® AR Gypsum Panel) and IR (Gold Bond® brand XP® Interior Extreme® IR Gypsum Panel) options. Easy to work with and handle, this flexible substrate works well for both wood and metal construction and is approved for specific UL fire-rated designs.

Both product lines have also achieved GREENGUARD GOLD Certification for indoor air quality, the highest industry standard.

Contact your construction design manager today for help specifying the best gypsum board for your next project. We’re here to help you build better.

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**Recommended Classification Levels for Compliance**

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<th>Gold Bond® brand Hi-Abuse® XP® Gypsum Board</th>
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*Abuse products are not recommended for areas prone to cavity penetration.

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“Most of the Abuse and Impact specifications I review include reference to the ASTM C 1629 test standard, but rarely do the specifications list the four different test methods within the standard and desired classification level (Level 1-3, 3 is best) for each test. To ensure the appropriate product is specified and ultimately installed for the intended application, I suggest that each test method and intended classification level are specified for each product type – Abuse and Impact. Similarly, I advise that Abuse and Impact product types be included as separate paragraphs in the specification with the four different test methods and preferred classification level listed for each product type.”

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“Abuse Resistant and Impact Resistant gypsum board continues to be the most misunderstood topic when I meet with architects and specifiers. The boards are frequently included in the specifications as the same product, or the architects and specifiers are not aware of the tests and classification levels (and what they represent) for the Abuse and Impact boards.”

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**TV test and designer Anita Medcalf tests High-Impact®**