



Gypsum Products Development Association

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## **Decoration and Discolouration of Gypsum Plasterboard**

Under certain environmental conditions exposed plasterboards can, if not suitably protected, experience a discolouration effect which causes the paper lining of the plasterboard to exhibit a yellowish tinge, often referred to as 'yellow staining'.

This process is a natural phenomenon subject to sunlight and/or humid conditions and can subsequently be accelerated if exposed plasterboards are subjected to prolonged exposure to sunlight and moisture. The effect is therefore worse in high UV and high humidity conditions.

The location of the plasterboards prior to decoration, fabric of the building and any restrictions on the drying process can also increase the incidences and chances of discolouration.

The recommendation is once gypsum plasterboards have been installed on site, the chosen finishing system, taping and jointing or plaster skim should be applied as soon as possible to prevent prolonged exposure of the paper liner to the environment.

For taping and jointing, the joints and plasterboard surface are required to be sealed as soon as possible using a Drywall Primer/Sealer. This coating applied across the full face of the plasterboard lining should be immediately applied after jointing to reduce moisture absorption and the risk of discolouration. Final decoration should follow with minimal delay.

If discoloration is already present prior to decoration, then advice should be sought from a paint manufacturer as to their recommendations for preventing discoloration of the final decoration. Generally, a non-water based paint is specified e.g. alkali resisting primer.

For further guidance and recommendations on specification and project assistance please consult the Plasterboard Manufacturer and relevant Drylining standards 8212:1995 and BS 8000:8:1994

### **GPDA**

The role of the Gypsum Products Development Association (GPDA) is to develop and encourage the understanding of gypsum based building materials and systems. The Association provides a cohesive package of advice and information on all developments affecting the gypsum industry, and communicates it to all aspects of the construction industry. Issues include the latest technical and product developments as well as training opportunities in the industry.

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