

The 2008 FEMA Flood Damage Resistant Materials Guide accepts the use of “Non Paper-Faced Gypsum Board” for use on walls and ceilings.

An August 2008 FEMA Technical Bulletin (*Flood Damage-Resistant Materials Requirements for buildings located in special flood hazard areas in accordance with the National Flood Insurance Program*) providing guidance under National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) regulations indicates that the use of non-paper-faced gypsum board for walls and ceilings is acceptable for certain special flood hazard areas and that the use of paper-faced gypsum board is unacceptable for walls and ceilings in these flood hazard areas.

More than just an acceptable non-paper-faced gypsum board for these flood hazard areas, both **DensArmor Plus®** and **DensShield® Tile Backer** are fiberglass mat gypsum boards.

The NFIP regulations for flood damage-resistant materials state that certain flood risk communities in Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs) subscribe to the following practice:

“...If a proposed building site is in a flood prone area, all new construction and substantial improvements shall... (ii) be constructed with materials resistant to flood damage...” (44 CFR Section 60.3(a)(3))

The FEMA bulletin provides guidance on what constitutes “materials resistant to flood damage” and indicates that non-paper-faced gypsum board for walls and ceilings is acceptable in these flood risk communities, but that paper-faced gypsum board for walls and ceilings is unacceptable for such communities.

SFHAs are determined by FEMA through a map called a FIRM (Flood Insurance Rate Map) which delineates these 100 year flood zones and other risk premium zones applicable to a community, for example, an area below a dam. It is estimated that there are more than 12,000 SFHAs in the US.

The Bulletin is available on the FEMA website at www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=1580. Look for the “Non-Paper-Faced Gypsum Board” on page seven and the diagram of the “drainable dryable wall” (as diagramed by Building Science Corp) listing non-paper-faced drywall on page 16 for flood resistant wall assemblies outside Special Flood Hazard Areas





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