

TECHNICAL BULLETIN

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Control Joints for Gypsum Wallboard

General:

Control (expansion-contraction) Joint is a designed separation in the systems materials that allows for movement caused by expansion or contraction of the system. The expansion or contraction of a system can be caused by many sources; the primary source is dimensional changes in framing related to changes in temperature and humidity, both of which affect stability of either wood or metal framing. The use and placement of control joints in a system can minimize the effect caused by expansion or contraction in a system.

- Control joints shall be either manufactured devices designed for this purpose or field fabricated from suitable materials.
- Full height door frames shall be considered equivalent to a control joint.

Installation:

Per ASTM C840 & GA-216 listed by the California Building Code section 2508 as the standards for installation of gypsum construction the following shall be followed.

- Control joints shall be installed where a partition or wall runs in an uninterrupted straight plane exceeding 30 linear feet.
- Control joints in interior ceilings without perimeter relief shall be installed so that the linear dimensions between control joints do not exceed 30 feet.
- Control joints in interior ceilings with perimeter relief shall be installed so that the linear dimensions between control joints do not exceed 50 feet.
- Since control joints are visible after installation, the precise placement of the joints shall be specified on the project plans and documents by the designer or architect who best knows the overall aesthetics objective of the space.
- Where a control joint occurs in an acoustical or fire rated system, blocking shall be provided behind the control joint by using a backing material such as 5/8 in. type x gypsum panel product, mineral fiber, or other tested equivalent.

Fire Rated Control Joint Details:

