

Interior Finishing of Magnesium Cement Board

Recommended joint, accessory, corner-bead and surface-finishing procedure

Interior MgO board should be finished in accordance with standard USG drywall-finishing practices, with the following MgO-specific requirements. Use heavy-weight setting-type compound for all initial bedding work, including board joints, corner beads, trim and other drywall accessories.

1. Joint Preparation

- Fill each board joint completely with heavy-weight setting-type joint compound (powder mixed with water).
- Work the compound into the full depth of the joint before applying tape.
- Apply enough compound on both sides of the joint to fully bed the tape.
- Do not use lightweight premixed compound for the initial bedding coat.

2. Paper Tape Application

- Use paper drywall tape for interior joints; it provides better crack resistance than fiberglass mesh tape.
- Embed the paper tape into wet compound and remove excess material without starving the joint.
- Never apply tape directly to dry board with no compound beneath it.

3. Corner Beads & Drywall Accessories

- Bed metal, vinyl or paper-faced corner beads, casing beads, control-joint accessories and trim profiles with heavy-weight setting compound.
- Apply compound continuously beneath accessory flanges so the bead or trim is fully supported and securely bonded.
- Fasteners, when required by the accessory manufacturer, should supplement—not replace—the bedding compound.
- Keep corner beads straight and plumb. Feather compound outward sufficiently to hide the bead shoulders.
- Use corrosion-resistant accessories in bathrooms, kitchens, coastal locations and other humid or moisture-prone interiors.

4. Finish Coats

- After the bedding coat has cured and been lightly sanded, lightweight premixed joint compound may be used for subsequent coats.
- Because MgO board absorbs very little moisture, use thin coats and faster-drying compounds.
- Allow each coat to dry fully before sanding or recoating.

5. Feathering & Surface Blend

- MgO boards typically have square, non-tapered edges. Feather joint finishing approximately 12–14 inches wide on each side as needed to create an undetectable transition.
- Apply progressively wider, thinner coats rather than one heavy build-up.
- At outside corners and accessories, widen the finish area enough to blend the accessory smoothly into the board surface.

6. Sanding, Priming & Painting

- Sand lightly between coats and avoid damaging the MgO surface or exposing paper tape.
- Remove all dust before priming.
- Apply a high-quality drywall or masonry-compatible primer before finish paint. Confirm coating compatibility with the paint manufacturer.

Illustrated Finishing Sequence

1 FILL	2 BED TAPE	3 BED ACCESSORIES	4 FINISH COATS	5 SAND • PRIME
Setting compound fully fills joint.	Paper tape embedded into wet compound.	Corner beads and trim fully supported in compound.	Thin coats feathered 12–14 in.	Smooth, dust-free, paint-ready surface.
DO ✓ Use setting compound for joints and accessories; embed paper tape; apply thin, wide finish coats.			DO NOT ✕ Apply tape or corner beads to dry board; use lightweight premix for bedding; build heavy narrow joints.	