

# USG DIAMOND®

## VENEER BASECOAT

### For economical two-coat residential and light-commercial applications

- Superior workability for faster, easier application
- Excellent basecoat for a variety of plaster finishes
- High coverage—as much as 4,000 to 5,000 sq. ft. per ton (88-110 sq. ft. per 50 lb. bag)
- GREENGUARD Gold certified and low VOC emitting material

### DESCRIPTION

USG Diamond® Veneer Basecoat provides quality walls and ceilings for residential and light-commercial construction where the superior strength of USG Imperial® Veneer Basecoat is not required. Its superior workability provides a high production rate with exceptionally good coverage. It produces a monolithic base with regulated suction, resulting in exceptional integral bond and a beautiful finish. Diamond Veneer Basecoat is applied from 1/16 in. to 3/32 in. thickness to Imperial® Gypsum Base panels. For all other substrates and substrate preparation methods, see *Veneer Plaster Application Technique* (PM6) at usg.com. If repairing or resurfacing an existing surface, refer to *Repair and Resurfacing Systems* (PM19).

### LIMITATIONS

1. Over interior monolithic concrete, Abuse-Resistant Panels or CMU substrates, USG Plaster Bonder must be applied before plastering.
2. Gypsum plaster should not be used where it will come in contact with water or excessive moisture. **Product NOT intended for exterior applications.**
3. Plaster application on masonry or concrete walls, or ceilings that have been coated with bituminous compounds or other waterproofing agents, is not recommended. Interior surfaces of exterior walls should be furred and lathed prior to plastering to prevent damage from seepage and condensation.
4. Basecoat plaster must not die or stop against a hollow metal door frame return. Dampen trim return vibration by grouting and using special anchors. The grout must be raked-out to allow space for gypsum base to be inserted in the frame.

### PREPARATION

Protect from moisture during storage and on the job. In cold weather, heat building interior to a minimum of 55 °F (13 °C) for an adequate period before the application of plaster, while basecoat and finish are being applied, and until the finish is dry. Air circulation should be kept at a minimum during application and until proper set has been achieved.

### JOINT TREATMENT

See instructions below for both normal and rapid drying conditions.

**Normal drying conditions:** Apply USG Imperial® Tape over all joints (edges and ends). Do not overlap at intersections.

**Imperial® Tape Type P:** Align pressure-sensitive tape over joints and press in place over entire length. To eliminate wrinkles and assure maximum adhesive bond, press the entire length of the tape with a steel finishing knife or trowel; press the tape into corners with a corner tool.

**Imperial® Tape Type S:** Attach tape with a spring-driven hand stapler using 3/8 in. (9.5 mm) staples. Place two staples at each end of the tape; staple the remainder at staggered 24 in. intervals. At wall-ceiling angles, staple tape every 18 in. to 24 in. along the ceiling edge only; for wall and partition interior angles, staple every 18 in. to 24 in. on one edge only, working from top to bottom. Position the tape to bridge the joint at all interior corners.

For fire-rated assemblies, staple either Type P or Type S tape 8 in. o.c.

## PREPARATION CONT.

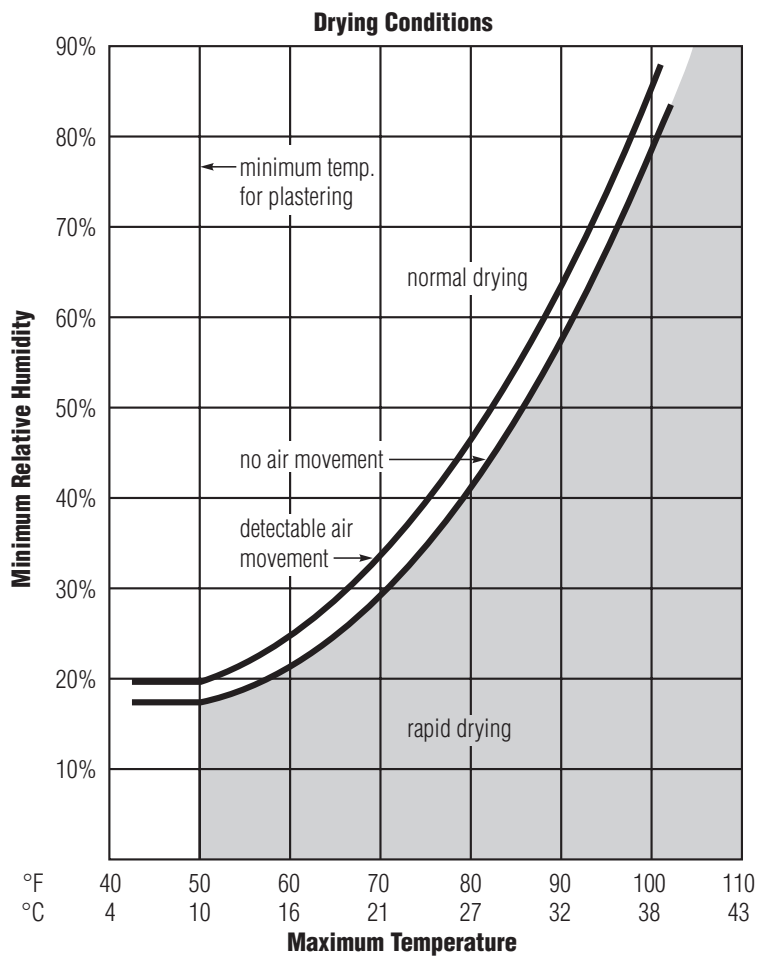
### JOINT TREATMENT CONT.

**Rapid drying conditions:** USG Sheetrock® Brand Joint Tape and Sheetrock® Brand Durabond® Setting-Type Joint Compound or Sheetrock® Brand Easy Sand™ Lightweight Setting-Type Joint Compound must be used to treat all joints and internal angles when any of the following conditions exist:

- Building temperature/humidity conditions fall in the “rapid drying” area of the graph on the next page
- Metal framing is specified
- 24 in. o.c. wood-frame spacing and a single-layer gypsum base veneer system is specified (5/8 in. base with one-coat veneer finish, or 1/2 in. or 5/8 in. base with two-coat veneer finish)

Allow joint treatment to set and dry thoroughly before plaster application.

Follow product submittal sheets for finishing guidance. See *USG Sheetrock® Brand Easy Sand Lightweight Setting-Type Joint Compounds Submittal (J621)* or *USG Sheetrock® Brand Durabond Setting-Type Joint Compounds Submittal (J17A)* at [usg.com](http://usg.com).



## MIXING

Use a cage-type mixing paddle driven by a heavy-duty electric drill producing a minimum speed of 900-1000 rpm (no load). Place approximately 12 to 14 quarts (11 to 13 L) of clean water in a 12 to 15 gal. (45 to 57 L) smooth-sided container, and with the mixer operating, slowly add one bag of plaster. Mix for a minimum of two minutes, but no longer than five minutes, to disperse all lumps completely. Mixing equipment and all tools must be kept clean.

## PLASTERING

USG IMPERIAL® GYPSUM BASE PANELS  
OR USG SHEETROCK® BRAND  
ULTRALIGHT IMPERIAL® PANELS

Apply Diamond Veneer Basecoat from 1/16 in. to 3/32 in. thickness. Reinforce all joints and interior angles with Imperial Type P or Type S tape. Embed tape and fill beads with Diamond Veneer Basecoat and allow to set but not dry. When rapid drying conditions exist, the paper tape is embedded in Durabond or Easy Sand setting-type joint compound and then recoated to conceal the paper tape completely. The joint compound is then allowed to set and dry. After beads and joints have been properly prepared, apply a tight, thin coat of Diamond Veneer Basecoat over the entire area, immediately doubling back with plaster from the same batch to full thickness. Fill all voids and imperfections. Leave rough and roughen with a sponge or fine broom once the surface has become somewhat firm. Allow the basecoat to set and partially dry to provide proper suction for finish coat.

## CMU

Surface must be porous to develop proper suction and rough enough to provide adequate bond. Lightly spray with water to provide uniform suction. Fill and level all voids, depressions and joints with Diamond Veneer Basecoat and allow it to set; then apply subsequent coats as with the gypsum base application above, leaving the final surface rough and open to provide proper bonding of the finish coat.

## MONOLITHIC CONCRETE

Prepare the surface with USG Plaster Bonder applied according to product directions. Fill all voids and depressions with Diamond Veneer Basecoat and allow to set and partially dry. Then apply Diamond Veneer Basecoat as with gypsum base or concrete block (above). **Important:** As no suction is provided over surfaces treated with the plaster bonding agent, it is essential that the applied basecoat surface be raked or broomed once the material has become firm to provide proper suction for the finish coat. Failure to do so may result in delamination of the finish material.

## ABUSE-RESISTANT PANEL SYSTEMS

Veneer plasters provide increased resistance to abrasion, indentation and penetration when used over Abuse-Resistant Panels in commercial and institutional applications such as schools and high-traffic retail locations. For additional information, refer to *Veneer Plaster Application Technique* (PM6) at usg.com.

## GYPSUM PANEL SUBSTRATES

Any USG Sheetrock® Brand gypsum panel may be used as a substitute for Imperial® gypsum base as a substrate for the application of a two-coat veneer plaster system where plaster bonder is incorporated. In fire-resistance-rated systems, refer to the published design for panel Type coverage. For metal-framed assemblies, joints of the panels shall be treated with paper joint tape and Durabond or Easy Sand Setting-Type Joint Compound. For wood-framed assemblies, joints of the panels shall be treated with glass-mesh joint tape and Durabond or Easy Sand Setting-Type Joint Compound. Provide an additional coat of setting-type compound to fully conceal the tape for the fill coat and allow to dry. When the joints are completely dry, treat the entire wall surface with USG Plaster Bonder (according to the application directions) prior to the application of a two-coat veneer plaster system.

## PRODUCT DATA

**Material:** Architectural Gypsum plaster (Refer to SA 920 for all architectural guidelines)

**Type:** Basecoat plaster for standard veneer base layer application.

**Approximate coverage over a base of Imperial® Gypsum Base or Specified Gypsum Panels:**

4,000-5,000 sq. ft./ton (88-110 sq. ft. per 50 lb. bag)

**Approximate coverage over CMU and Monolithic Concrete:**

3,500-4,500 sq. ft./ton (77-99 sq. ft. per 50 lb. bag)

**Compliance with Standards:** Complies with ASTM Designation C587.

**Availability:** Diamond Veneer Basecoat is distributed throughout the United States. Contact a United States Gypsum Company sales office or sales person for additional information.

**Packaging:** 50 lb. (22.7 kg) bag

STORAGE

Store material in a cool, dry place. Maintain temperature above 40 °F (4 °C) and protect from moisture exposure. Refer to *Environmental Conditions - Plaster Application* (PM10) at usg.com. Shelf life up to 6 months under protected storage conditions. Rotate stock.

SUBMITTAL APPROVALS

Job Name	
Contractor	Date

**PRODUCT INFORMATION**  
See usg.com for the most up-to-date product information.

**DANGER**  
Causes skin irritation. Causes serious eye damage. May cause cancer by inhalation of respirable crystalline silica. Do not handle until all safety precautions have been read and understood. Avoid breathing dust. Use only in a well-ventilated area, wear a NIOSH/MSHA-approved respirator. Wear protective gloves/protective clothing/eye protection. If swallowed, inhaled, or skin irritation occurs get medical attention. When mixed with water, this material hardens and becomes very hot sometimes quickly. DO NOT attempt to make a cast enclosing any part of the body using this material. If on skin: Wash with plenty of water. If in eyes: Rinse cautiously with water for several minutes. Remove contact lenses and continue rinsing. Wash contaminated clothing before reuse. Dispose of in accordance with local, state, and federal regulations. For more information call Product Safety: 800-507-8899 or see the SDS at usg.com **KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN.**

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**SAFETY FIRST!**  
Follow good safety/industrial hygiene practices during installation. Wear appropriate personal protective equipment. Read applicable SDSs and literature before specification and installation.



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