



Children's Hospital, Oakland

Oakland, California



Research

James Jackson, Children's Hospital & Research Center

Construction Manager

Mark Pentico, Turner Construction



Children's Hospital Takes Proactive Stance on Mold in New Addition*

When a 28,000-square-foot (2601 sq. m.) addition to Children's Hospital & Research Center at Oakland, CA, was planned in 2003, building materials had changed considerably since the original hospital was constructed more than 90 years ago in 1912. The hospital administration and the owner's representative chose Dens® Brand fiberglass mat gypsum products both inside and out, as one way to help reduce the potential for mold growth.

Whether visible or not, most buildings have traces of mold in their wall cavities and indoor air. But mold can't survive without a food source. DensArmor Plus® fiberglass mat gypsum panels eliminate the paper surfaces found on traditional drywall. So mold is less likely to grow on DensArmor Plus panels.

"Mold resistance is an important part of our nosocomial infection control," said James Jackson, vice president, ancillary and support services for the hospital. "We have some very sick kids...cancer patients, those whose immune systems are low. We take mold very seriously."

Charles Smith of Harris and Associates, the owner's representative, concurred. "DensArmor Plus is a mold-resistant material. Mold is a prime concern, especially in the last two to three years."

"Turner Construction, the General Contractor, suggested that the hospital use DensArmor Plus for the renovation," he continued. "In the Bay Area, the temperature and humidity vary greatly. We get fog from the Bay that's heavily laden with moisture. The contractor was concerned about getting into a situation where mold growth could be a problem. Research shows that DensArmor Plus is the best product on the market for resisting the growth of mold."

Another benefit of DensArmor Plus is the fact that interior construction could remain on schedule, even if the building wasn't completely closed in. The product now comes with a 12-month limited warranty against weather exposure damage.**

Mark Pentico, construction manager of the facility, said: "The building was under temporary protection when we began installing DensArmor Plus.

* Information presented in this project profile is for illustration purposes only. Please consult the appropriate system manufacturer or design authority for system specifications and instructions for any specific system or assembly. Georgia-Pacific Gypsum does not provide roofing design services.

** See www.gpgypsum.com for complete warranty details..

That would have been a big risk with standard drywall. Even though we had no rain for two months during construction, we still have fog regularly with high moisture content.”

The scope of the construction project consisted of a new 28,000 sq. ft. (2601 sq. m.) three-story tower in front of the 205-bed hospital and numerous internal renovation projects. In addition to DensArmor Plus®, Turner Construction used DensGlass® Shaftliner in the elevator and mechanical shafts with duct work and piping as well as DensGlass® Sheathing underneath the addition’s brick facade.

“Turner is a big outfit,” said Jackson. “We follow their lead.”

Although Georgia-Pacific’s fiberglass mat products cost a little more than competing products, Smith thinks they’re worth it. “Time will tell. If DensArmor Plus is everything Georgia-Pacific claims it to be and it resists mold growth, then I would recommend it for any job where potential mold growth is a concern.”

Children’s Hospital & Research Center at Oakland houses nationally recognized research programs and child advocacy efforts. The hospital offers high-quality pediatric care, primary and sub specialties, education and teaching.

For more information about fiberglass mat gypsum panels, copies of our warranties or other product information, visit www.gpgypsum.com or call 1-800-225-6119.

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warranty information. All sales of this product by Georgia-Pacific are subject to our Terms of Sale available at www.gpgypsum.com.

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HANDLING AND USE—CAUTION This product contains fiberglass facings which may cause skin irritation. Dust and fibers produced during the handling and installation of the product may cause skin, eye and respiratory tract irritation. Avoid breathing dust and minimize contact with skin and eyes. Wear long sleeve shirts, long pants and eye protection. Always maintain adequate ventilation.

Use a dust mask or NIOSH/MSHA approved respirator as appropriate in dusty or poorly ventilated areas.

FIRE SAFETY CAUTION Passing a fire test in a controlled laboratory setting and/or certifying or labeling a product as having a one-hour, two-hour, or any other fire resistance or protection rating and, therefore, as acceptable for use in certain fire rated assemblies/systems, does not mean that either a particular assembly/system incorporating the product, or any given piece of the product itself, will necessarily provide one-hour fire resistance, two-hour fire resistance, or any other specified fire resistance or protection in an actual fire. In the event of an actual fire, you should immediately take any and all actions necessary for your safety and the safety of others without regard for any fire rating of any product or assembly/system.

