

Drywall Finish Levels Made Simple

Level 0

- ▶ No taping, finishing, or accessories required.
- ▶ Used in areas where appearance isn't a concern.

Level 1

- ▶ Tape is embedded in joint compound at seams and corners.
- ▶ Tool marks and excess compound are acceptable.
- ▶ Fastener heads do not need to be covered.

Level 2

- ▶ Tape is embedded and wiped with a joint knife for a thin, even coat.
- ▶ One coat is applied over fasteners and accessories.
- ▶ Tool marks are allowed, but excess compound should be removed.

Level 3

- ▶ One additional coat is applied to joints and corners.
- ▶ Fasteners and accessories receive two coats.
- ▶ The surface should be smooth and ready for a textured finish.

Level 4

- ▶ Two coats are applied over flat joints and one coat to corners.
- ▶ Fasteners and accessories receive three coats.
- ▶ The surface should be smooth and free of tool marks or visible defects.
- ▶ Recommended for flat paint, light textures, or wallcoverings.

Level 5

- ▶ A thin skim coat is applied to the entire surface.
- ▶ Creates the smoothest possible finish for gloss, semi-gloss, or dark paints.