

## Exposed Block

Omni Block can be manufactured in a variety of integral colors, architectural finishes (split-face, scored, scored split, or burnished) as well as the standard gray. Any of these appearances may be the actual finish.

## Sealers

The application of a concrete sealer over the exposed block will yield more of a sheen or glaze appearance. Sealers penetrate the block which makes it more stain resistant while locking-in the calcium (white residue sometimes seen on exposed block) that can cause efflorescence.

## Stains

Penetrating colored stains are another finish option over exposed block. Penetrating stains applied on the exposed block after the block walls have been constructed will yield a uniform colorization on the block as well as the mortar. The combination of a sealer and stain can be applied during the same application.

## Paints

The exposed block can be painted. A masonry primer should be used before the finish paint is applied.

## Drywall Appearance

The common finish over the block is a drywall appearance that matches interior partition drywall after it has been 'taped and textured'. In order to accomplish this look and attain a seamless transition between interior partition walls and Omni Block, two options are available.

### Option 1: Surface Bond

The interior block surface is coated with a cementaceous bonding material that is applied (eighth inch to quarter inch thick) in a semi-smooth texture over the block before any interior framing is started. Surface bond has the appearance of stucco but is much stronger. It not only bonds well with the block but bonds exceptionally well with regular construction drywall compound. It also hides the mortar joints very well. At the drywall stage of construction, the drywall contractor tapes block-to-drywall joints the same as he would if it were drywall-to-drywall.

### Option 2: Drywall

The interior block surface is laminated with drywall. Standard construction adhesive is applied to the back of the drywall and set onto the block wall face. A few screws may be utilized to fasten the drywall to the block wall until construction adhesive has dried. The drywall contractor tapes all joints.

## Top Plate Coverage

The interior exposed top plate (above the block) can be covered several ways. The recommended method is to attach 1 1/2" wide by 1/2" thick drywall strips to the top plate. The wall seam and ceiling seam can then be taped with whatever the drywall contractor prefers (paper or fiberglass). Some drywall contractors have found that 'hot mud' in this area works well.

## Corner Bead

All window and door openings require the use of square or bull nose corner bead. It is recommended to coat the inside bead with drywall compound and set around the opening. The corner bead edging is then feathered onto the surface bonded or laminated drywall wall and opening return with drywall compound. **The surface bond coat is not intended to be the finish around openings. For proper interior finish, corner bead must be used.**

## Skim Coat

The surface bond application (which should be relatively smooth) or laminated drywall is then skim-coated with drywall compound. For most semi smooth and all smooth finishes, a skim coat is required.

## Texture Coat

The same texture coat that is applied to the interior partition drywall should be applied to the surface bonded or laminated drywall walls as well. An exact match between the two is easily accomplished by any competent drywall contractor.

## Paint

All interior surfaces are primed and painted to match.

## Repairs

Small holes created by Tapcon screws (or equal), plastic or lead inserts with tapping screws are patched with regular drywall compound. Since the block face is a little over one inch thick, patching is accomplished easier than repairing typical drywall that is only half of an inch thick.

## Builder's Checklist

- Make sure that drywall contractor includes:
  - 1) top plate coverage,
  - 2) corner bead for all openings,
  - 3) texture coat and/or skim coat is in his bid.
- Inspect job site as drywall contractor is applying corner bead to make sure that it is being installed evenly and squarely.