13

Drywall

Energy Code Requirements

There are no specific requirements in the energy code that impact drywall or its installation.

ENERGY STAR

The application and use of gypsum drywall in itself does not have a large impact on energy use, or on ENERGY STAR certification (except where airtight drywall techniques are used). However, there are a number of things to be aware of concerning drywall:

- **Double check air sealing details** before you install the drywall. Once the boards are up, you can't see that areas need draftstopping or sealants. Look for the big holes! (See page 90).
- **Nailing** should be kept to a minimum in corners. Let one side of inside corners float to help prevent cracks and nail "pops" (do provide backing so the drywall doesn't get pushed out during taping). See EEBA for more on drywall nailing techniques.
- **"Airtight drywall approach"**—If you use adhesive or acoustical sealant to attach drywall to top plates and end studs of partition walls, where they meet insulated walls and ceilings, this helps keep the air in the wall from getting "out." Add adhesive around window and door rough openings, caulk around electrical boxes, to complete a reasonable air barrier. At a minimum, specify adhesive on all top plates of walls that intersect insulated ceilings. If your drywall crew doesn't want to do that, you can squeeze a thick bead of acoustical sealant in these areas, and you have an instant gasket. See Figures 11.1-11.3 for more about "airtight drywall approach."

Going Further

EEBA also covers truss uplift, alternative framing for reduced drywall cracks, tub and shower enclosures, and wintertime drywall finishing.