

# Sensitive Plasterboard

A better choice for your environment

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# Meeting the needs of today's homeowners

Since 1947, Gyprock has led the plasterboard market with innovations to help create beautiful and functional homes. The company continually invests in new technologies to develop products and systems that best meet the needs of modern families.

The focus for Gyprock's product development has expanded to explore more active ingredient inclusions. These advanced additives help protect our living environments.

2.3 million Australians live with asthma and one in three of us suffers from allergies. Allergies occur when a person's immune system reacts to substances, allergens, that are harmless to most people.

There are many things that can trigger an allergic reaction or aggravate asthma. Two common triggers are mould and volatile organic compounds (VOCs).



#### **MOULD FACTS**

Mould can produce millions of spores that can easily become airborne and can be a dangerous asthma trigger as well as causing a range of respiratory symptoms.

Even the best-built homes can suffer from mould and mildew especially in humid climates and when parts of the home are not well ventilated.

Gyprock recently commissioned an extensive research project into the effects of mould on Australian households. This study has enabled us to quantify the impacts of mould on families and respond to their concerns.

#### The research uncovered some interesting facts:

- Half of the people who have experienced mould believe it may have contributed to health issues
- Poor ventilation, environmental humidity and condensation are seen as the major causes

- Ceilings and walls of bathrooms, bedrooms and laundries are the main areas of a home affected
- 82% were interested in mould resistant plasterboard to help them avoid the problem in their next home

#### **VOC FACTS**

Volatile organic compounds are organic chemicals that evaporate at room temperature, releasing molecules into the air. VOCs are in many products found in our living spaces including carpets, paint and furniture and can be very irritating for asthma and allergy sufferers. Indoor air quality is vital for home occupants, and various environmental assessment bodies stipulate safe limits on the amount of VOCs that products used in buildings should generate.



NATIONAL ASTHMA COUNCIL AUSTRALIA

# It's about breathing

Sensitive Choice<sup>®</sup> is a program created by the National Asthma Council Australia as a guide for asthma and allergy sufferers to identify products and services that may benefit their health and wellbeing.

The blue butterfly signifies a better choice and companies earn the right to display it on products that the National Asthma Council Australia approves, based on strict criteria.



# Introducing

Gyprock Sensitive is a revolutionary hypoallergenic plasterboard that is the first and only residential plasterboard to be approved by the Sensitive Choice<sup>®</sup> program.

Designed as a superior choice for asthma and allergy sufferers, this premium plasterboard provides substantial benefits for you and your family at a very reasonable upgrade cost:

- Mould resistant even in extreme conditions
- Moisture resistant for laundries and bathrooms
- Low VOC
- Approved by the National Asthma Council Australia's Sensitive Choice® program
- Accredited by Good Environmental Choice Australia



### The development of a more Sensitive plasterboard

Gyprock is the plasterboard market leader, both for residential and commercial plasterboard products and systems.

Since 2002 when the Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA) was established, environmental factors have become an increasingly important focus for building products and processes. This was driven primarily by energy efficiency regulations designed to reduce our reliance on greenhouse gas-producing energy sources.

In commercial developments, the GBCA also places a higher level of focus on indoor environment quality (IEQ) as part of its rating tools for Green Star building points.

Gyprock has been at the forefront of the development of high performance plasterboards and has fine tuned its manufacturing processes to produce exceptionally low VOC levels.

In 2011 Gyprock introduced a highly effective mould resistant additive to produce a product designed for specialised commercial projects where indoor environment quality is vital. As a result, architects and designers specify and trust Gyprock for hospitals, aged care and education projects.

The years of proven success in these high traffic, heavy use situations led to the development of Gyprock Sensitive for homes. Now there is a trusted Gyprock solution for every environment.

## Key Features

#### **MOULD RESISTANT**

Gyprock Sensitive is treated with a powerful but gentle antifungal agent throughout the board's core which penetrates through the paper liner and paint coating.

Repeated independent laboratory tests to the internationally recognised film fungal resistance measure ASTM G21 have been conducted on treated plasterboard samples manufactured over two years ago. This extreme test inoculates samples with a mixed fungal spore suspension. While the standard board sample developed fungal growth as expected, the treated sample showed zero growth.

This proven protection provides long-term peace of mind for asthma and allergy sufferers.



Laboratory test results under extreme conditions.

#### **MOISTURE RESISTANT**

The core of Gyprock Sensitive contains a wax emulsion which makes it highly moisture resistant and very beneficial for 'wet areas' such as bathrooms and laundries that are subject to increased exposure to steam and humidity. In some circumstances, other rooms in a home can be affected by moisture, which can lead to mildew and mould. Gyprock Sensitive far exceeds the Australian Standard for water absorption.



#### LOW VOC

Indoor environment quality is extremely important for asthma and allergy sufferers and a key focus for independent assessment bodies including the Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA) and Good Environmental Choice Australia (GECA). Both set strict limits for what levels of VOC emission rates are acceptable in occupied spaces. Independent test by CETEC Professional Scientific Solutions Pty Ltd show that the total VOC emission rate for Gyprock Sensitive is around 90% lower than the GBCA recommended levels.



## Talk to your builder

The cost of plasterboard makes up a very small proportion of the cost of building a new home or extension. Gyprock Sensitive is a premium plasterboard choice that costs a little more than Standard but with long lasting benefits and very little impact on your total construction costs.

Ask your builder about the difference that installing Gyprock Sensitive on your walls and ceilings will add and compare that with the peace of mind that Sensitive Choice<sup>®</sup> products can provide.

#### Water absorbtion after 2hrs

### A Better Environmental Choice



Good Environmental Choice Australia Limited (GECA) manages an environmental rating program where products are analysed to assess their impact on the environment. GECA accreditation is a rigorous process involving all parts of the manufacturing process and a

licence for the use of the GECA label is only granted to a product where it has been verified by an independent conformity assessment body that the product meets the environmental performance criteria of a GECA standard. The GECA 04-2011 Panel Boards standard includes maximum allowable volatile VOC emission levels.

Gyprock Sensitive is accredited to the GECA 04-2011 Panel Boards standard.

### Manufactured for Life Warranty



As with all Gyprock products,

Gyprock Sensitive is covered by Gyprock's Manufactured for Life warranty – the longest in the Australian plasterboard industry.

Gyprock products are manufactured for life, with all CSR products designed to achieve optimal performance when part of a CSR integrated system.

Gyprock continues to lead the market with premium quality products which are the preferred choice of plastering professionals.

Full warranty details can be found at www.gyprock.com.au/warranty.



Everything else is just plasterboard

# Other low allergen options for your home

If someone in your household suffers from asthma or allergies, you'll want to do all you can to make managing symptoms as easy as possible.



Gyprock Sensitive provides a healthy start to your walls and ceilings and you can rest assured that the Gyprock plasterboard jointing compounds used by your builder during installation are also low VOC and GECA accredited. Paints and other wall treatments are available with low VOC and low mould so be careful which treatment you choose.

When you are choosing your wall and ceiling insulation, look for the Sensitive Choice<sup>®</sup> logo or ask your builder to help you choose the right product. Bradford<sup>™</sup> Insulation is a Sensitive Choice<sup>®</sup> partner and can offer your builder a wide range of insulation solutions.



Fresh air is a must and passive or mechanical (non air-conditioning) ventilation products are an inexpensive way to maintain your indoor environment quality. Edmonds Ventilation has a range of solutions for any situation and are also a Sensitive Choice® partner.

For more help choosing products that are better for your health, visit the Sensitive Choice<sup>®</sup> website www.sensitivechoice.com. The website is constantly updated with new approved products so make sure you visit regularly.

### For more information about Gyprock Sensitive and other Gyprock products, call 1300 306 556 or visit www.gyprock.com.au

Triniti 3, 39 Delhi Road, North Ryde, NSW 2113, Australia CSR Building Products ABN 55 008 631 356

