

COMPLETELY REVISED & UPDATED

DRYWALL

- Professional Techniques For Great Results
- New Chapter on Sound Control
- Over 100 New Photos



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**3rd
Edition**



Sanding

If taping is my favorite part of a drywalling job, I'd have to say that sanding is my least favorite. The dust makes the job unpleasant, and it is tedious, time-consuming, and fairly difficult work. It takes me almost as much time to sand and clean up as it does to apply one coat of joint compound (just under an hour for a typical 12-ft. by 12-ft. room). However, sanding is the final step in the drywalling process. And, in my opinion, it's also the most important. It's your last chance before painting to turn a so-so taping job into a quality finished job.

Some tapers claim to be so skillful at taping that they don't need to sand at all. In my experience as a drywall contractor, however, I believe that a beautiful finished job requires at least some sanding after the final coat. (Depending on your taping ability, you may need to sand between coats as well, as discussed on p. 100.) Nevertheless, there are times when I have not sanded ceilings prior to texturing. In most light, those ceilings look just fine. Most customers, however, aren't satisfied with a finished job that looks good in most light. They want a job that looks good all the time and in any light.

ROUGH SAND WITH A POLE SANDER

A pole sander outfitted with 150-grit or finer paper makes quick work of rough sanding the fasteners, seams, and corners. Done correctly, rough sanding eliminates the worst spots of a sanding job.



1. Sand fasteners first
By sanding strips of fasteners prior to sanding seams, you reduce the likelihood of scuffing up the seams.

2. Finish off the walls
Using a 4-ft.-long or longer handle allows for plenty of leverage and it keeps you at least an arms length away from falling dust.

3. Get close to your work
Working on stilts makes it easier to sand ceilings and high areas. Wear goggles or glasses to protect your eyes from dust.

THE SANDING PROCESS

I have a variety of sanders that hook up to a vacuum. Some have rotating and vibrating heads and some work just like regular pole sanders, which require physical movement to sand. If I'm concerned about dust control, these are the sanders I choose.

If electric sanding tools aren't specifically made for sanding joint compound, I'd stay away from them. I do most of my sanding with hand tools (primarily a pole sander). Following the right steps, the work moves swiftly.

Sanding is a two-step process. I first use a pole sander to remove excess joint compound, such as marks left by taping tools, crowned areas where too much compound was applied, and intersecting joints that need blending. I call this the rough sanding stage. To finish up, I do a final sanding using one or more hand tools.

A pole sander fitted with a 150-grit sanding screen or paper does an excellent job of smoothing out 95 percent of the taped surfaces. If you're sanding a nice, smooth taping job, you can use an even finer grit. On