The finishing process requires patience! You should apply three coats of Easi-Fil® joint compound through the process and allow 24-hours of drying time between applications. The first coat is used to embed the tape, while the two finishing coats feather out the compound, resulting in a uniform, smooth finished surface.

A few pointers for easy and safe application:

- Always wear a dust mask when sanding
- Use only a 150 – 180 grit sandpaper, designed especially for joint compound
- Keep your knife clean by drawing it over the edge of the mudpan or hawk.
- Throw out any dried bits of joint compound… they will leave scratches

- Don’t worry about a smooth finish on the first coat… the finishing coats will take care of that.
- Stir joint compound well before use. Add clear water for desired consistency.
- Joint compound should never be frozen. In cold weather compound should be at room temperature 24 hours before using.

Repairs

SMALL BREAKS

To repair small cracks and holes, first remove any loose material. Then, using a clean putty knife, fill the opening with joint compound. Let it dry and apply additional coats, if needed. To repair larger cracks, embed a piece of joint tape to cover the opening, then apply a second coat of joint compound and finish the surface.

LARGER BREAKS

Where the tape will not bridge the opening, use a keyhole or other saw to cut out an area around the hole. Cut the drywall back to the center of the stud on either side of the damaged area. For a large crack, remove the section and any fasteners with a hammer or screw gun. Measure and cut a new gypsum board panel to fit the damaged area. Fasten it to the studs. Apply joint compound and embed the tape to all four sides of the replacement piece. Or, for larger holes, use self-sticking fiber-glass tape along the edges and apply joint compound. Let it dry, then apply a second coat, feathering to produce a smooth surface. If necessary, apply a third coat.

Popped Nails

Press the drywall firmly against the framing member. Drive and dimple a new nail about 1-1/2" from the popped nail. Then drive the first nail below the surface of the board. Cover the dimples with joint compound.

FINISHING FASTENERS

You will want to coat each of the nail or screw heads used to fasten your CertainTeed drywall with Easi-Fil joint compound. After the first coat has dried completely, you will need to sand and apply two more coats to the fasteners, sanding between each coat.

OUTSIDE CORNERS

Measure bead and cut to right length; a snug fit from floor to ceiling (about 1/4” shorter than the wall height). With a 7” knife apply a generous amount of Easi-Fil joint compound on either side of corner. Using even pressure, press paper / metal bead onto corner into position, ensuring it is aligned; embed it into compound by running the knife at 45° angle. Let dry for 24-hours. Apply a second coat with the 7” knife, allowing knife to rest on nose of the bead. Let dry for 24-hours and apply a third coat. After another 24-hours, sand the corner to a smooth finish.

SANDING

Do not sand after applying tape, remove small lumps behind with your knife before applying 2nd coat. When sanding use 150-180 grit paper and always sand along the outside edge so well, that the transition between the compound and the CertainTeed drywall are smooth with no imperfections. Then sand the rest of the joint lightly in order to make smooth. Be careful not to sand too much off. If too much is sanded off, you will need to apply additional coats of compound.

INSIDE CORNERS

Inside corners will need to be taped as well. First, apply a thin layer of joint compound on both sides of the corners using a 2-1/2” taping knife, extending the compound slightly beyond where the tape would extend. Next, fold the tape and lightly press it into the corner with your knife. Once it is in place, using your 3-1/2” knife or a corner tool to firmly embed the tape into the compound. Allow to dry for 24-hours, then apply a second coat using a 7” taping knife to one side of the corner. You can only do one side of the corner today, as the compound must dry completely so the other side can be finished tomorrow. Do the same for the third coat, using a 12” taping knife.

When you are finished, you may want to test the finishing by holding your 12” finishing knife blade across the joint. If the blade rocks, you’ll know there is still a hump, which will need further feathering.

Joint treatment and taping

TAPING AND FINISHING

Begin with the butt joints – the areas where the unfinished ends of CertainTeed drywall meet.

First, apply a coat of Easi-Fil joint compound over the joint with your four-inch knife. Then, press the tape firmly into the compound by pressing your knife over the tape. Squeeze out excess compound, making sure that there is enough Easi-Fil joint compound under the tape to make a good bond.

Allow each coat to dry thoroughly before applying the next coat (24-hours between coats). If the tape does lift, do not lift along the edges after drying; simply cut out the next coat (24-hours between coats). If the tape does not lift in the centre, allow each coat to dry thoroughly before applying the next coat. If the tape lifts in the centre, you must tear out affected area and re-tape.

Apply a second coat using a 7” taping knife and this coat should extend approximately 4”- 6” beyond each side of the joint. After the coat dries approximately 24 hours, sand the area.

Apply a third coat using a 12” taping knife and this coat should be a thin coat and should extend approximately 7-1/2” beyond each side of the joint. The further you feather the compound out, the harder it will be to see imperfections. After the first coat has dried completely, you will need to sand and apply two more coats to the fasteners, sanding between each coat.

Apply a second coating using a 7" taping knife and this coat should extend approximately 4’- 6’ beyond each side of the joint. After the coat dries approximately 24 hours, sand the area.

Press the drywall firmly against the framing member. Drive and dimple a new nail about 1-1/2” from the popped nail. Then drive the first nail below the surface of the board. Cover the dimples with joint compound.

TORN FACE PAPER

Peel away any loose paper. Apply a very thin layer of joint compound, using a finishing knife large enough to cover the damaged area. Feather it to get a smooth finish. Let it dry for 24 hours and apply a second coat, if needed.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT CERTAINTEED. COM OR CALL 800-233-8990.
CERTAINEED DRYWALL
A durable, lightweight, cost-effective building material for interior walls and ceilings.
Consisting of a premium quality, non-compressible gypsum core, CertainTeed drywall is encased in a smooth face (front) and back covering of 100% recycled paper. The tapered edges are precision manufactured and paper bound for easy joint finishing, making CertainTeed drywall the ideal choice for finishing interior walls and ceilings. Once primed, it can be painted, wallpapered or textured for a look that works for you.

TOOILS YOU WILL NEED
To properly install CertainTeed drywall, you’ll need the following tools:
- Tape measure
- 4-foot T-square or straight edge
- Utility knife with extra blades
- Step ladder
- Marking pencil
- Wallboard Saw
- Tin snips
- “Mud” Hawk or Pan
- 2-1/2", 4", 7" and 12" finishing knife
- Drywall rasp

Planning the Job
It’s best to plan your drywall installation with the least amount of joints (the seam where boards meet). Fewer joints will mean less finishing work.
We recommend installing CertainTeed drywall perpendicular to studs or joists. drywall comes in 4-foot wide and various lengths and thicknesses. However, most common are 8", 10", 12". You may find it easiest to work with 8-foot boards.
If you are intending to finish your ceilings with a water based texture, you should use CertainTeed 1/2" Interior Ceiling Board on maximum 24" on centre joists, in order to avoid sagging.
To determine how many boards you will need, simply calculate the total surface area of your walls and/or ceiling by multiplying the length by the width. You might wish to draw a sketch of the room/area you are working on to make things easier. When calculating, do not subtract windows or door areas. Divide your total square footage by the square footage of your boards (32-feet for an 8-foot board) and round up to find the number of boards you need.

Installation Instructions

Cutting the Board
CertainTeed drywall is very easy to work with and cutting is quite simple. To make a cut, score the paper on the face side with a utility knife along the edge of your T-square. Apply firm, but even, pressure to snap the board along the score. Then fold the board along the score and cut the paper along the crease with the utility knife. Lastly, smooth the rough edges with a sanding block or drywall rasp.

Remember, always wear safety glasses when cutting or sanding boards.

Attaching CertainTeed Drywall
You can attach your drywall to studs or joists using nails, screws. We recommend using drywall screws for optimum installation and professional finish. You might wish to consult with your dealer when considering the different application methods.
Always install ceiling first, then install walls, allowing a space of at least 1/2" off the floor. Keep fasteners 6 inches away from the interior ceiling and ensure that nails or screws are not less than 3/8" from the ends and edges of the drywall.

Walls
When installing drywall, install the upper board first, ensuring that you push the board firmly against the ceiling and that tapered edges are in contact. Then fasten with drywall screws spaced 16" apart (or preferably double nails 6" apart) working from the center out to the edges. As the door or window frame is opened and closed over time, the joint will tend to move. To put the lower panel into place, you may wish to use a wedge or drywall lifter. Put the angled edge under the board and use it as a lever to slide the joint into place.

Cutouts
You will need to cut openings in your drywall to accommodate electrical outlets, light fixtures, windows and doors.
For light fixtures and electrical boxes, measure the distance from the edge of the adjacent board to the near and far sides of the installed fixture box. Then measure from the top edge of the panel to the top and bottom of the box. Trace the outline of the box in the position you just measured on the board. Cut the opening with a drywall saw.
For larger openings, install the panels directly across the openings. Then use a drywall saw to cut the panels, using the framing as your guide. As you install the boards, make sure that you do not place joints at the edges of doors or windows. If you do, the door or window is opened and closed over time, the joint will crack.

Inside Corner
To join boards at an inside corner, simply butt the second board against the first and fasten its end to a framing member.

Outside Corner
On outside corners, be sure to cover the end of the first installed board with that of the second. Fasten both ends of the boards to the common stud.

To prepare the corner for finishing, install a corner bead. Measure the length needed, then cut the bead with tin snips, cutting through each flange towards the nose, then bending the bead to fit. After selecting the corner bead of your choice, follow the manufacturer’s instructions for installation.

Dust mask
Safety glasses or goggles
150-180 grit sandpaper
Sanding pad and pole sander
Sponge
Drywall hammer or regular carpenter’s hammer (if installing with drywall nails)
Electric screw gun or standard drill with dimpler attachment (if installing with drywall screws)

Based on the square footage of your project area, you'll need the following materials per 100 square-feet:
100 1-1/4" drywall screws (or 1/2 lb of nails)
30-feet of CertainTeed joint tape
4.5 L of CertainTeed joint compound

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For more information, please consult the manufacturer’s instructions for installation.