

DRYWALL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF NEVADA

DCAN-SW

Representing Nevada, Arizona, and California

Painter's Guide To Masking Tape Removal

The Drywall Finishing Council, the Technical Services Information Bureau, and the Western Walls and Ceilings Contractors Association have each published technical papers (available upon request) on the **proper removal of adhesive tape from painted drywall surfaces**. These publications were the result of many subcontractors reporting that when the masking tape is removed around door jambs and cut in lines etc., the paint is sticking to the tape and peeling away from the underlying texture, joint compound, or drywall face paper.

Simply stated, this issue is caused by the cohesive strength of the masking tape to the paint exceeding the cohesive strength of the underlying texture or joint compound, which results in the masking tape peeling the paint away from the substrate as the tape is removed.



Following is a summary of key suggestions to avoid this issue:

1. **Remove the Tape Per Manufacturers Recommendation at a rate of 1" per second, and at a 45° angle.** This measure alone is usually enough to mitigate this issue. Do not grab the tape and quickly yank it off the wall.
2. **Use the manufacturer recommended type of tape for this application,** which is typically "blue" tape. In some cases, this prevents the problem, especially when combined with #1 above.
3. **Do not let the tape set on the wall for extended periods of time.** Typically, the longer the tape stays on the wall, the more cohesive strength it develops, particularly in temperature and humidity extremes.
4. **Score the edge of the tape prior to removing.**
5. **Job Scheduling: Joint compounds and paint each need time to dry between successive coats.** Painting wet drywall finishing products, or applying excessive mill thickness of paint, will saturate the drywall finishing products under the paint, which decreases their ability to bond.
6. Certain primers and paints perform better than others in creating a strong bond to the often-dusty drywall surfaces. **Please proactively consult with you paint manufacturer to inform them of this issue and get recommendations for primer and paint systems.**

If you have any questions about this topic or would like to set up a presentation in your office, please contact the DCAN office.

Published 11-2018

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