



Frequently asked questions about **LEVELCOAT™**

1. Q: Is **LEVELCOAT** a self-leveling product? Will it level the wall even if the joints aren't level?

A: No. **LEVELCOAT** will not level a bad joint or fill in surface imperfections. The name derives from the products ability to provide a "Level 5" finish.
2. Q: Will **LEVELCOAT** fill in sanding marks?

A: Generally a typical application of **LEVELCOAT** will fill normal sanding scratches up to 1/32" in depth. **LEVELCOAT** should not be considered as an appropriate solution to deep gouges, power sander scuffs or torn face paper.
3. Q: Does **LEVELCOAT** have to be sprayed applied?

A: Due to the very low shrinkage nature of the product it is very difficult to get roller marks and stipples out of the end result. Premium foam rollers with concave ends manufactured by Whizz Roller System™ (www.whizzrollers.com) have been found to provide the smoothest finish without application marks. Backrolling with a synthetic-knap, 1/4" roller can produce a unique finish IF the applicator is particularly talented with a roller; even then a single, top-to-bottom stroke is recommended. Generally, if spray application is impossible, (i.e. Hospital, Nursing Homes, Schools, etc.) we recommend using Magnum PRIMEPLUS™ instead of **LEVELCOAT**.
4. Q: Can I thin **LEVELCOAT**?

A: Yes, however we don't recommend cutting **LEVELCOAT** from its original viscosity unless you experience excessive "fingering" or fan marks while spraying.
5. Q: Can I over thin **LEVELCOAT**?

A: Yes. Over dilution has three possible negative effects. One, it can cause the product to drape or sag. Two, it can cause the product to crack. Three, in cases of EXTREME over-dilution, it can cause **LEVELCOAT** to not bond effectively to the wall. Generally, do not dilute 5 gallons of **LEVELCOAT** by more than 1-1 ½ quarts.



6. Q: Do I need to prime over (or under) **LEVELCOAT** before I apply paint?
A: No, **LEVELCOAT** replaces standard priming and/or the first coat of paint. The exception would be if a sealer is needed or if using a paint that requires a very high hold out. In those cases a sealing primer should be used over **LEVELCOAT**.

7. Q: What size pump and sprayer is needed to apply **LEVELCOAT**?

A: We recommend a heavy duty pump that can spray at between 2800-3000 psi. Generally a sprayer rated at $\frac{3}{4}$ gallons per minute is the



minimum that we recommend, 1 gpm or larger will generally allow a larger tip to be used and result in a more efficient job.

8. Q: What size hose do I need?

A: The standard $\frac{1}{4}$ " hose will be adequate, however we recommend a $\frac{3}{8}$ " hose if available.

9. Q: What size tip aperture should I use?

A: This will vary depending on the flow rating of your spray rig, the pump pressure and the viscosity of the

LEVELCOAT. Generally a .023-.025 (i.e. 525, 625, 1225); will be optimum on a spray rig rated above 1 gpm; however if fingering occurs a smaller aperture such as a .019 may be appropriate with the proper viscosity. If you are using a



smaller sprayer, a smaller tip will probably be necessary to avoid fingering.

10. Q: Do I need to alter my equipment in any way to apply **LEVELCOAT**?

A: No. However if you are using ready mixed **LEVELCOAT**, many contractors have found that removing the filter from their pump and the small filter in the spray gun allows for a better, more even application.

11. Q: Is **LEVELCOAT** like USG's "First Coat"?

A: No, "First Coat" is a paint product similar to Magnum's high build primer, PRIMEPLUS™. **LEVELCOAT** is classified as a "primer/surfacer" and is similar to USG's "Tuff Hide" or Sherwin William's "Builders Solution". The advantage of **LEVELCOAT** is that it is sandable, much less expensive and has very little odor.

12. Q: How heavy of an application is necessary for **LEVELCOAT** to be effective?

A: Every job is different however our experience shows us that **LEVELCOAT**'s effectiveness begins at about 10 wet mils. For best results we recommend that **LEVELCOAT** be applied in multiple, cross-hatched passes to a total thickness of 15 wet mils. It can be applied as thick as 35 wet mils before it starts to sag, run or crack.

13. Q: What kind of coverage should I expect with **LEVELCOAT**?

A: If applied at 15 wet mils, coverage should be 130-135 square feet per gallon.

14. Q: Can you tint **LEVELCOAT**?

A: Yes. **LEVELCOAT** can be tinted. Be sure to consider the viscosity of the material when tint is added to insure that **LEVELCOAT** is not over-thinned.

15. Q: What is the drying time?

A: With a temperature of 70° F and a humidity of 60%, **LEVELCOAT** will dry to the touch in 60 minutes. We do not recommend painting over **LEVELCOAT** in under an hour of its initial application and suggest waiting 24 hours before painting, if possible.

16. Q: What do I need to do to **LEVELCOAT** prior to spraying it?

A: Make sure that **LEVELCOAT** is well mixed (drilled) and prior to spraying.

Generally, shaking is not as effective as stirring.

We recommend using a drywall-type mixing paddle keeping the blades submerged in the product to avoid air entrapment.



17. Q: What is the shelf life of **LEVELCOAT**?

A: **LEVELCOAT** has a usable shelf life of approximately fourteen months from the date of manufacture. We recommend that **LEVELCOAT** inventory be rotated every 90 days.

18. Q: If I open a bucket of **LEVELCOAT** and it has separated is it alright to use?

A: Yes. Separation is normal. The clear fluid on the top of the mixture is NOT water; DO NOT POUR IT OFF! By mixing the product, the chemical smell will be eliminated and the product will revert to its original composition and will perform as intended.

19. Q: Is there any special preparation that needs to be performed on the gypsum board prior to applying **LEVELCOAT**?

A: Yes. For a smooth, paint finish we recommend that the drywall sanding dust be brushed off of the wall prior to applying **LEVELCOAT**. Some contractors have found that a large floor mop such as those used to clean gymnasium floors



are an efficient and time effective method of removing sanding dust from the walls. Make sure to wear a NIOSH approved respirator when cleaning the walls. Applying **LEVELCOAT** over sanding dust will result in a rough finish.

20. Q: My old painted walls have joint flashing; can I use **LEVELCOAT** to get rid of the stripes?

A: Yes. As with any paint or primer the surface needs to be clean and free of smoke residue, grease or nicotine. High gloss paints may need to be lightly sanded to help **LEVELCOAT** adhere to the gloss finish.



21. Q: Can **LEVELCOAT** be applied over wallpaper.

A: Since **LEVELCOAT** may re-hydrate the wallpaper paste and cause it to lose it's adhesion to the wall we recommend that wallpaper be removed prior to the application of **LEVELCOAT**.

22. Q: Can **LEVELCOAT** be applied over vinyl wallcovering?

A: Yes. If the wallcovering is lightly textured two applications of **LEVELCOAT** followed by sanding has successfully produced a smooth finish.

23. Q: Does **LEVELCOAT** require any special hazardous material handling or precautions?

A: No. **LEVELCOAT** has a VOC of <2g/l and excess can be disposed of in accordance with state and local regulations for non-hazardous materials. We recommend wearing a NIOSH approved respirator when dry sanding or spraying **LEVELCOAT**.

24. Q: What should I do if I get fan marks, or “fingers” in the spray pattern when I apply **LEVELCOAT**?

A: A smooth, consistent application of **LEVELCOAT** is dependant upon the combination of the correct pump pressure, tip aperture, distance between the tip and the wall surface and thinning to the correct viscosity. If fan marks persist after altering these four please call us at 1-800-255-6678.