Finding Healthy **Wallboard**

Learn more about material health!

WOMEN for a Healthy ENVIRONMENT

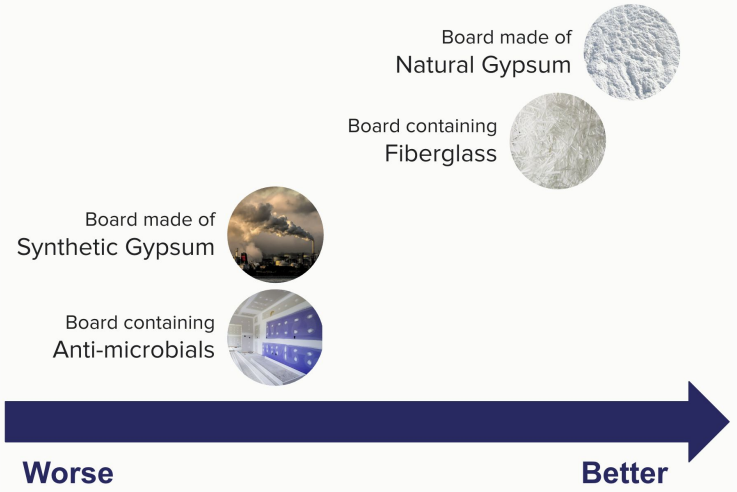
LIVING FUTURE

Common **Wallboard** Materials

Synthetic Gypsum
Also called flue gas desulfurization (FGD) gypsum, and often advertised as “pre-consumer recycled content,” synthetic gypsum is a byproduct of pollution control systems used in coal-fired power plants. It can contain toxic heavy metals, and is particularly associated with increased mercury emissions.

Natural Gypsum
Natural gypsum is preferable from a health perspective for building occupants, though there are environmental and health consequences associated mining operations.

Board containing Fiberglass
Fiberglass has important performance consequences (like fire-resistance), but should be minimized; look for options free of formaldehyde, and follow safety precautions when cutting.



Board containing Antimicrobials
Antimicrobial coatings are often added to mold-resistant wallboard. These coatings can contribute to antibiotic resistance, and are sometimes potent endocrine disruptors. Use sparingly.

Your Material Health Checklist for **Wallboard**

- ☐ Opt for wallboard made from natural gypsum
- ☐ Avoid wallboard made from “synthetic gypsum,” “FGD gypsum,” or containing high pre-consumer recycled content
- ☐ Use mold-resistant wallboard only when absolutely necessary, such as in bathrooms and flood-prone areas
- ☐ Follow safety guidelines (mask, proper ventilation) during installation, especially when cutting wallboard
- ☐ Install wallboard before carpet and furnishings to prevent dust from being absorbed into fabric
- ☐ During occupancy, clean thoroughly and regularly to ensure occupants are not exposed to dust

Healthy **Wallboard** Products

Both of these example products are **UL GREENGUARD Gold**, a product certification that ensures low emissions. The USG product also has a **Declare Label**.*

Find more healthy wallboard by searching the Declare database for Red List Free products, or by searching Ecomedes for Greenguard Gold or Indoor Advantage Gold products.

Declare Database

Ecomedes



USG

Sheetrock® Brand EcoSmart Panels Mold Tough® Firecode® X



certainteed SAINT-GOBAIN

Regular Drywall

*As of June 2026. Be sure to check produce data for current status.