



# Soundcoat Plus

A parge coat for increased airtightness to optimise sound and thermal performance

# Introducing Gyproc Soundcoat Plus

## - a new parge coat from British Gypsum

Parging of masonry walls, prior to drylining, is a commonly used method of improving the thermal and acoustic performance by minimising air leakage through cracks, unfilled joints and block porosity. Buildings that are well constructed, with a good standard of airtightness, will benefit from improved energy and acoustic performance, lower heating costs, reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and greater comfort for its occupants.

### Thermal performance

Gyproc Soundcoat Plus optimises the thermal performance of external and separating walls by limiting air leakage and the resultant heat loss. The current consultation on SAP 2009, the Building Regulations Approved Document L compliance calculation tool for homes, includes figures for heat losses from cavity separating walls which means new homes will need to be sealed more effectively to comply. This is one of the most significant step changes in improving energy efficiency, as a dwelling can lose up to 24% of its heat from a cavity wall.

### Acoustic performance

The acoustic benefits of Gyproc Soundcoat Plus are recognised by Robust Details Limited. Robust Detail specifications are capable of consistently exceeding the performance standards given in the Building Regulations Approved Document E. Applying Gyproc Soundcoat Plus to blockwork improves site practice, to reduce risk and site variables, which leads to an enhanced approach to robustness of acoustic performance.



### Key facts – what's changed

Gyproc Soundcoat Plus replaces Gyproc SoundCoat to deliver even more performance benefits:

- Gyproc Soundcoat Plus has been formulated to enable application on to aircrete blocks, as well as aggregate.
- Gyproc Soundcoat Plus is now part of nine Robust Detail masonry wall specifications, including separating walls incorporating aircrete blocks.

Performance requirements and applications	Gyproc SoundCoat	NEW Gyproc Soundcoat Plus
<b>Thermal performance of external and separating walls</b>		
Aircrete blocks	X	✓
Lightweight aggregate blocks	✓	✓
Medium aggregate blocks	✓	✓
Dense aggregate blocks	✓	✓
<b>Acoustic performance through specification of Robust Details</b>		
E-WM-3	✓	✓
E-WM-4	✓	✓
E-WM-5	✓	✓
E-WM-6	X	✓
E-WM-10	X	✓
E-WM-11	✓	✓
E-WM-12	✓	✓
E-WM-13	X	✓
E-WM-16	✓	✓
<b>Acoustic performance through Pre-Completion Testing</b>		
Aircrete blocks	X	✓
Lightweight aggregate blocks	✓	✓
Medium aggregate blocks	✓	✓
Dense aggregate blocks	✓	✓

## How Gyproc Soundcoat Plus increases the sustainability of new homes and improves occupier comfort

- The external envelope has the most significant long-term effect on reducing the energy consumption of a dwelling. The use of Gyproc Soundcoat Plus on all external and separating walls provides an effective airtight seal, reducing energy consumption.
- As the performance requirements of Building Regulations Approved Document L become more onerous, using Gyproc Soundcoat Plus to reduce heat losses can limit the requirement for costly heating solutions.
- High levels of insulation are not sufficient on their own to limit heat loss. Gyproc Soundcoat Plus is a cost effective way of providing an air barrier to masonry walls.
- Within the Code for Sustainable Homes, minimum standards of energy and CO<sub>2</sub> performance are required at each level. Gyproc Soundcoat Plus is an integral product for the robust design of energy efficient dwellings.
- Gyproc Soundcoat Plus enhances the acoustic performance of masonry separating walls. Code for Sustainable Homes credits are awarded for achieving higher standards of sound insulation than those in Building Regulations Approved Document E.

### Application of Gyproc Soundcoat Plus

The application of Gyproc Soundcoat Plus is exactly the same as Gyproc SoundCoat - a continuous coating of minimum 6mm is applied by hand or suitable spray. Trowelling flat is not required.



*It is imperative that airtightness is given high priority to close the gap in performance between claimed and reality. The increased air permeability testing regime, proposed in Part L 2010, supports this.*



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For a comprehensive and up-to-date library of information visit the British Gypsum website at: [www.british-gypsum.com](http://www.british-gypsum.com)

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FM 52358

British Gypsum August 2009 SOUNDCOAT-01