

# Decorator's Notebook

## New Type Of Wall Panel Is Made To Stay Dry

(NAPSA)—There's good news for homeowners, designers and contractors looking for a way to keep moisture at bay.

A new wall panel from the makers of a well-known construction product has been designed to resist both moisture and abuse.

The wall panel is made by United States Gypsum Company, the company that invented the drywall industry when it introduced Sheetrock® Brand Gypsum Panels in 1917.

The new product, which is called Fiberock® Brand Aqua-Tough™ Interior Panels, is made from a unique gypsum fiber formula that is said to offer protection from both moisture and mold. The panels are water resistant through their core, and approved for use in wet areas, including tub surrounds in bathrooms.

Designed to be installed and finished like traditional drywall, the panels feature a smooth surface that can either be painted or finished with ceramic tile. They are made from 95 percent recycled materials, making them an environmentally friendly product option.

"The panels are extremely versatile and can be used in all types of residential and commercial applications," said Diane Earll, U.S. Gypsum's product marketing manager. "Their abuse-resistant qualities make them ideal for high-traffic areas such as garages, basements and hallways, while their resistance to moisture enables them to be used in a wide variety of wet areas, including bathrooms and kitchens."

The new panels can be finished using a variety of techniques, and



**A new type of interior wall panel is designed to resist both moisture and abuse.**

are suitable for use on both walls and ceilings. They may be used behind ceramic or other types of tile, but their drywall "look" gives them a smooth, flat, paintable surface. So, if a room design calls for tile on the lower part of the wall (with a painted, textured or wallpapered finish above), or if an entire tub or shower area is to be tiled while using a different finish outside, there is no need to change wallboard products.

Available in 1/2- and 5/8-inch (fire-resistant) thicknesses and in lengths ranging from 4 to 12 feet, the gypsum fiber panels can be cut using a utility knife and straight edge, but handsaws or low-rpm power saws can also be used.

Depending upon the applications, the panels can be fastened using corrosion-resistant bugle-head screws or hot-dipped galvanized roofing nails.

To learn more, visit the USG Web Site at [www.usg.com](http://www.usg.com) or call (800) USG-4YOU.