HOW TO BEST AVOID DRYWALL FASTENER POPS

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Drywall fastener pops are a nuisance to any drywall installer. The unsightly pops lead to callbacks and wasted time away from other construction projects. As a market leader in the drywall industry, Titebond's technical team investigated the cause of fastener pops to create awareness and teach installers avoidance techniques.

Titebond's technical service team completed a series of tests and determined that there is not one single cause behind fastener pops, but rather a combination of seven key factors:

- Above 10% moisture content of the stud wall or ceiling joist
- Adhesive shrinkage (water or solvent-based)
- Drywall shrinkage
- Type and length of fastener
- Technique used in setting the fastener
- Changes in climate
- Faulty workmanship

The moisture content of the wood was found to be the biggest contributor to fastener pops. While adhesive shrinkage is a contributing factor, adhesive was introduced into the drywall process to help reduce the number of overall fasteners needed for the job. In turn, this reduces the number of pops, finish time and potential for sag.

Based on our results, we recommend customers take these steps to help eliminate the risk of fastener pops:

- Use a moisture meter to determine the moisture content of the wood framing before drywall installation. If the wood is above 10% moisture content, let it dry before installation.
- If finishing can wait, use Titebond Drywall Plus Construction Adhesive. This adhesive is designed to eliminate 99% of fastener pops.
- If finishing cannot wait, use Titebond Fast Set Polyurethane Construction Adhesive to reduce the shrinkage and eliminate water absorption from water or solvent-based adhesives. Polyurethane adhesives do not shrink or contain water.
- Use the shortest fastener recommended by the drywall manufacturer. The longer the fastener, the greater the relative movement of the screw head to the wood stud surface.
- Install a properly seated fastener with a dimple that does not break the paper. Overdriving the fastener to the point of breaking the paper will cause the fastener head with drywall compound to break free more easily from the surrounding drywall paper.

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