

DRYWALL DELIVERY SAFETY ACCESS HATCH

Drywall delivery to many construction projects, particularly up to four storeys tall, has become more difficult in recent years. Often access to the upper levels is limited to interior staircases requiring delivery workers to carry the drywall up manually.

The BC Wall & Ceiling Association recommends the use of a Drywall Delivery Safety Access Hatch. The hatch will ensure a safe and efficient means of placing drywall on the upper levels when there is no safe alternative. The use of window openings that meet the width 600 mm and height 1,520 mm (2 ft. wide by 5 ft. high) minimums specified is an acceptable alternative.

Gypsum Supply Dealers are saying:

“Give us the hatch or an acceptable alternative. The safety of our workers is too important for compromise”

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“Proper access to all projects over one storey is a major concern. We have found that as loading drywall into projects becomes more difficult, claims increase.”

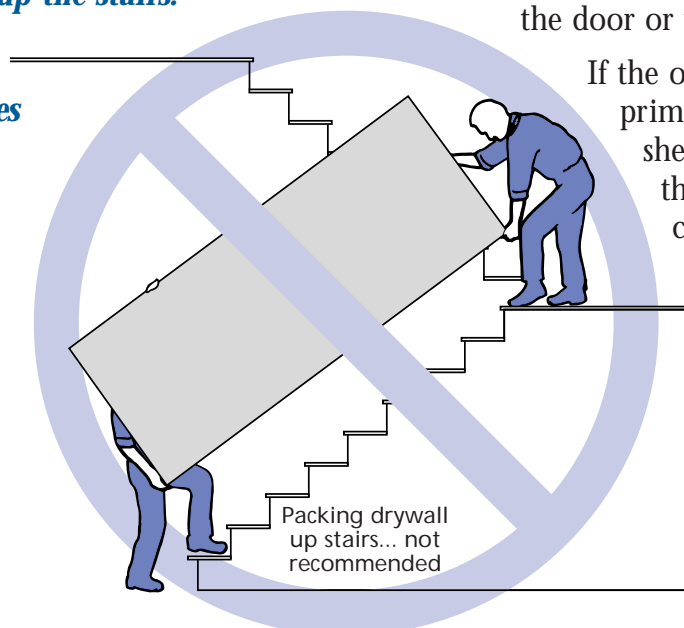
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“...The problem with leaky buildings has added to this, since builders are sealing in the building prior to the delivery of drywall.”

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“Without this access, the possibility of back and shoulder injury increases when deliveries have to be made up the stairs.

Our company’s time loss due to job related injuries is far beyond our expectations. We are very concerned about safety in the work place.”



Current Regulations

WCB’s *Occupational Health and Safety Regulations* clearly place responsibility for worker safety on all employers responsible for the site to arrange the work area **“to allow the safe movement of people, equipment and materials.”** (Section 4.33[1])

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Recommended Opening

Delivery can be facilitated by the prime contractor providing an unobstructed opening in the exterior wall at each floor level. An appropriately framed exterior-wall delivery hatch opening that is 24 inches (600mm) wide and 60 inches (1,520mm) high will meet the minimum requirements (see diagram overleaf).

An existing opening can be used if it meets the minimum hatch size as shown, and does not have the door or window installed.

If the opening needs to be covered, the prime contractor can tack temporary sheathing material over the opening on the inside. The supplier removes the cover, the drywall is delivered through the opening, and the cover can be replaced from the inside.

Unobstructed access for equipment to reach the building is required, and should not exceed a distance of 18 feet (5.5 metres) from the delivery entrance.

DRYWALL ACCESS HATCH SHOWING SAFE DELIVERY

Advantages:

- Delivery personnel are not responsible for removal and reinstallation of windows already installed by professionals.
- Material is delivered more quickly, with a minimum amount of product damage.
- Risk of injury is greatly reduced.



ACCESS HATCH:

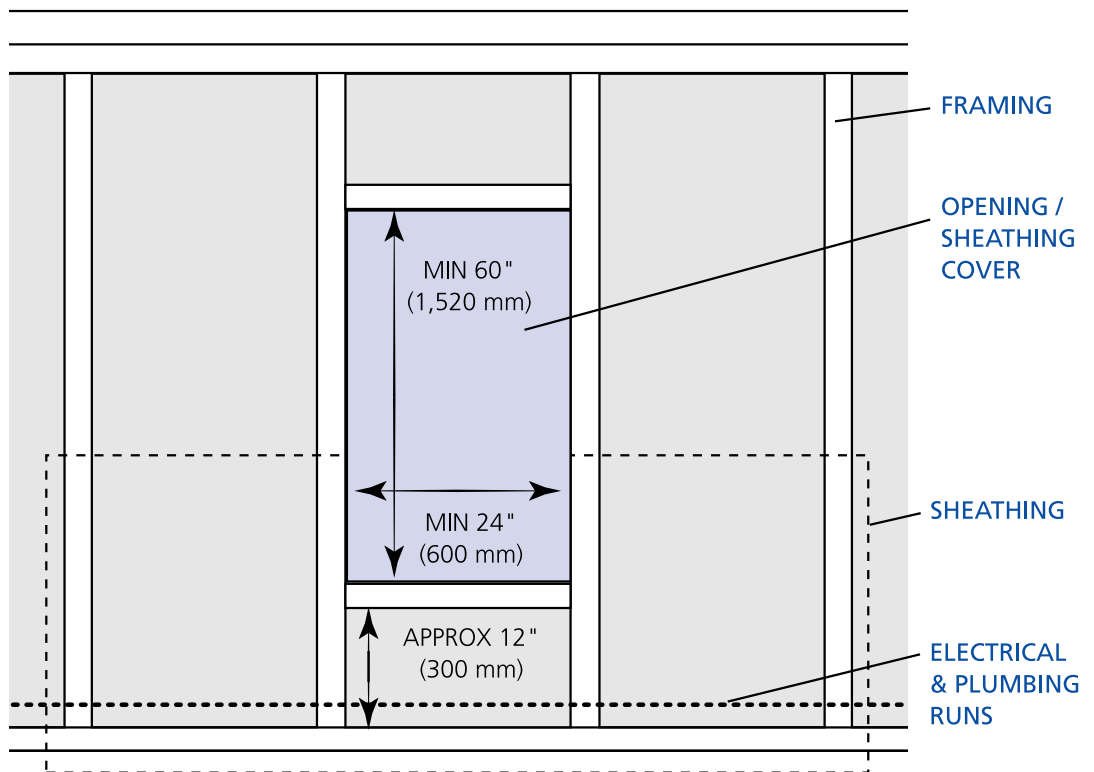
location to be determined on site by the superintendent.

HATCH DETAIL

A framed exterior-wall delivery hatch opening must be a minimum of 24 inches (600 mm) wide and 60 inches (1,520 mm) high.

An existing opening can be used if it meets the minimum hatch size as shown, and does not have the door or window installed.

If the opening needs to be covered, the prime contractor can tack temporary sheathing material over the opening on the inside; the delivery personnel can remove and replace the temporary sheathing as required.



The British Columbia Wall & Ceiling Association gratefully acknowledges the contributions of the Alberta Wall & Ceiling Bureau, the Northwest Wall and Ceiling Bureau, the Calgary Home Builders Association and the Workers' Compensation Board of BC for their assistance in the development of this information sheet.



#112 - 8484 162nd Street,
Surrey, BC V4N 1B4
Phone (604) 597-7180
Fax (604) 597-7208