



**City of Milpitas  
Building and Safety Department**

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**Interior walls and ceiling finishes in  
buildings of noncombustible and fire-  
rated construction**

<b>Policy:</b>	<b>BDP-BLG03</b>
Effective Date:	03/29/11
Proposed by:	LS
Last Reviewed/ Revised:	5/12/17
Revised by:	BYC
Approved By: Gary King Acting Chief Building Official	

Where interior finish materials are applied on walls, ceilings or structural elements required having a fire-resistance rating or be of noncombustible construction they shall be applied against noncombustible or fire-rated backing surface or to furring strips not exceeding 1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" applied directly against such surfaces as per 2016 CBC sec. 803.13.1. An interior wall or ceiling finish that is not more than 1/4" thick shall be applied only directly to noncombustible backing per 2016 sec. 803.13.4. Fire retardant treated wood is considered combustible construction.

Where walls are set out or ceilings are dropped, finish materials shall be either Class A per 2016 CBC sec. 80.13.1.1, or protected on both sides by automatic sprinkler system or attached to noncombustible backing or furring strips per 2016 CBC sec. 803.13.2.

Finish materials shall be Class C minimum or comply with minimum classification based on occupancy classification and location within the building as per 2016 CBC Table 803.11. Within the shopping mall and mall exits, interior wall and ceiling finishes shall be Class B minimum as per 2016 CBC sec. 402.6.1. Materials having thickness of less than 0.036" applied directly to surface of walls or ceilings are not required to be classified per 2016 CBC 803.2.

Building inspectors shall verify finish material classification prior to installation. Building inspector shall verify stamp or certification for all finish materials for the proper flame spread rating.