



## Installation Instructions

**DO NOT USE dB3® MAX TO SURROUND OR ENCLOSE ANY LIGHT FIXTURES**

**CUT dB3 MAX BACK A MINIMUM OF 24" AWAY FROM ANY CANNED LIGHTS**

### Preparation

1. Typically installed after framing, insulation, and electrical is complete. Insulation should be used in addition for optimal performance.
2. Ensure that all applicable inspections are completed prior to installation of dB3 MAX
3. dB3 MAX may be installed prior to "drying in" the building (prior to installation of windows and doors)
4. Acclimate dB3 MAX for a minimum of 24 hours at temperatures 60oF or greater to reduce material stiffness when handling;
5. Starting in one corner of the room, install dB3 MAX flush with the top of the wall studs, and hang it vertically.
6. Drywall should be installed within 2-4 weeks of dB3 MAX to prevent excessive wear. If longer delays are expected, washers should be installed to securely fasten dB3 MAX. Drywall installation permanently attaches the dB3 MAX to the stud.

### Wood Studs

1. Attach dB3 MAX, fiber side against the framing, directly to the top of the wood plate using wide-crown 1/2" staples or pan head screws.
2. A fastener every 12" horizontally is recommended along the top.
3. Straighten dB3 MAX so it is flush against the wood studs and apply from the top down.
4. Using staples or pan head screws, attach dB3 MAX to each stud in the center of the stud. Only 1 fastener is required for each vertical stud every 36".
5. Use an exterior fastener pattern, only fastening to the studs where the seam falls.

**NOTE:** Hammer stapler may be the best way to attach staples through dB3 MAX into stud.

### Metal Studs

1. Attach dB3 MAX, fiber side against the framing, directly to the metal stud using drywall screws.
2. A screw every 12" is recommended along the top.
3. Straighten dB3 MAX so it is flush against the metal studs.
4. Using drywall screws, attach dB3 MAX to the stud in the middle of the stud. Only 1 fastener is required for each vertical stud.

### NOTE: High Walls

- a. dB3 MAX on walls higher than 15' shall be secured with washers along the top to prevent the fastener from pulling through the material.
  - b. Fasteners should also be used on intermediate studs (in addition to exterior studs) every 12' vertically.
5. Install dB3 MAX on all required walls.
  6. Keep fasteners as flush as possible, since all protrusions will put a dimple into the finished wallboard. Fasteners shall not protrude more than 1/16" from dB3 MAX surface.
  7. Tightly butt the side of the next sheet of dB3 MAX to the edge of the attached sheet. Do not overlap seams.
  8. Tape all seams with Seam-Seal or equivalent. Ensure there are no bubbles or wrinkles in the tape. The tape is semi-permanent, and will be permanently sealed in position when drywall is hung.
    - a. If dB3 MAX is installed horizontally or a seam does not fall on a stud, the seams must be taped preferably with Seam Seal tape, which provides a long-lasting attachment.
    - b. If seams fall on the stud, with no gaps >1/8", then no taping is required. Drywall installation will seal the dB3 MAX against the existing studs.
    - c. Commercial alternatives include commercial duct tape.
  9. dB3 MAX is easily cut to fit around irregular objects and electrical boxes. The material should be cut around outlets, switches, and junction boxes. Gaps shall be less than 1/8". If greater, they shall be sealed with acoustical caulk.
  10. ISO pads (putty pads) should be installed on the back of all electrical boxes.
  11. Caulk the bottom plate at the floor line with acoustical sealant.
  12. Install drywall per normal technique (ASTM# C840 – Standard Specification for Application and Finishing of Gypsum Board). dB3 MAX will be fastened permanently when the gypsum board is hung.

### Storage

dB3 MAX must be stored in a dry environment and may be stored outside on construction sites with tarps or covering to prevent moisture contact with the fiber layer. If stored below freezing temperatures, material may require 24-48 hours of acclimation to regain pliability.

