

## NATIONAL BUILDING CODE OF CANADA ALLOWS FOR EASIER-TO-CONSTRUCT TWO-HOUR FIREWALL SYSTEM

*Paperless gypsum firewall system in townhomes helps protect structures from moisture issues, mould and fire*

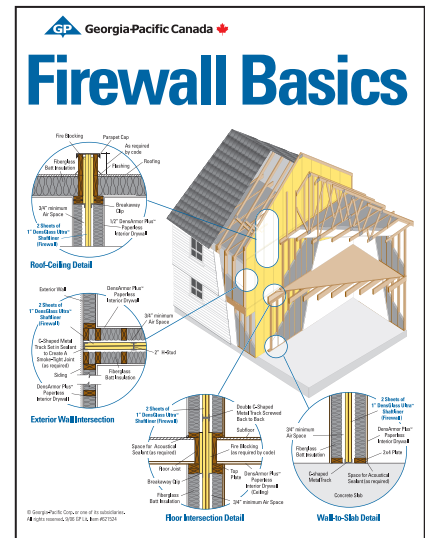
Builders in Canada now have the option of using a cost-efficient, easy-to-install, mould-resistant replacement for block-wall partitions. Firewalls constructed with DensGlass Ultra™ Shaftliner for area separation walls provide an excellent alternative for construction of non-load bearing wall assemblies requiring fire-resistance ratings up to two hours in multi-family, multi-story townhomes.

This system meets the requirement for a two hour firewall as per the National Building Code of Canada 2005 and carries a six month exposure warranty, giving builders peace of mind that neither rain nor freezing weather are

an issue during construction. An added benefit is that the firewall system with DensGlass Ultra Shaftliner can be installed by the framing crew, which is a potential savings in labour costs.

"It would take a week to put up an old-fashioned blocks and mortar firewall," said Don Owens, a townhome developer in British Columbia with Image Construction Ltd. "Using the DensGlass Ultra Shaftliner firewall, we can get it done in one afternoon."

The DensGlass Ultra Shaftliner two-hour fire-rated assembly is constructed once the framing for one townhome is complete and prior to the construction of the adjacent unit. The assembly is constructed at the foundation and continues either to the underside of the protected roof sheathing or through the roof to form a parapet. The assembly is linked to the adjacent framing



Firewall illustration courtesy of Georgia-Pacific.

with aluminum breakaway clips that allow for collapse of the fire-exposed unit without collapse of the solid area separation wall.

Owens says he has no plans to ever use another block firewall. “To penetrate a block wall you have to blast through the concrete. With DensGlass Ultra Shaftliner, you can cut nice, round holes with regular drill bits. It’s as easy as that.”

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