



DSS-R.02.02 | Residue / Film / Adhesion

Drywall Mud / Plaster Film

Residue/film - gypsum/setting compound particulate; chalky veil, drag wipes, particulate halos; typically SC-0, SC-1 if abrasion occurred during attempts to clean

Diagnosis summary

Drywall mud/plaster film is an appearance change on glass caused by gypsum-based joint compound or plaster particulates/binders deposited during taping, sanding, feathering, or cleanup. It presents as a chalky veil with drag wipes, finger/pad prints, and particulate halos, sometimes consolidated by moisture. Classification is appearance-only per VIS (method-agnostic).

Field identification cues

- Surface-catch class (MSRT)
- Typically SC-0 (loose/powder film on top of glass).
- SC-1 may appear when abrasive pads or dry wipe grinding created very shallow micro-texture during improper cleaning; SC-2 uncommon.
- Perform one light, non-marring pass on a small revealed test patch (substrate). Use polymer stylus if a functional coating is suspected. MSRT supports classification only.

Classification, severity and scope

- Assign CAT by visibility at acceptance geometry and MSRT after a controlled reveal test. Depth values are indicative-field measurement not required.
- CAT-1 (Benign / non-relief): Chalky veil/particulate only; SC-0 after true reveal; primarily angle/raking visible. Indicative relief: 0-10 µm (optical film).
- CAT-2 (Light): Persistent residue with tide-line halos or slight SC-1 from prior abrasive wiping; limited impact at standard view. Indicative relief: ~10-40 µm.
- CAT-3 (Moderate): Broad, high-contrast matte fields legible at standard distance where residue consolidated with moisture or was abraded into micro-texture (SC-1→SC-2 localized).
- Reclassify when: If underlying alkaline etch is evident (e.g., from cementitious wash, not gypsum) or linear scoring is present from abrasive pads → evaluate under Ch.02 (alkaline attack) or M.02.

Distinguishing criteria

- vs. Paint overspray (R.02.01): Overspray shows coalesced micro-droplets and sometimes color tone; drywall/plaster is white, powdery, non-gloss, transfers to cloth.
- vs.
- vs. Mineral staining/etch (Ch.03): Mineral veils follow water arcs/runs and can show ring halos; gypsum fallout maps to sanding plumes and wipe zones.

Documentation and inspection

- Photo set (VIS): 12 / 36 / 72 in, normal + oblique; raking macros of powder texture, wipe overlaps, tide lines; context frames with active drywall/plaster areas.
- MSRT result (substrate): After a small reveal test patch, perform one light, non-marring pass; record SC-class (SC-0/SC-1/SC-2).
- Forms: Pane ID; product family & surface numbering; worked surface Y/N; functional coating present on worked surface?

Safety / repairability boundary: Complete only the non-invasive reveal and inspection steps authorized by the controlling VIS guidance. Classification does not authorize restoration, establish acceptance, or override stop-work, coating, crack, integrity, access, chemical, fall-protection, or project-specific requirements.

Full DSS publication: use the catalog download. Web specification:

<https://a7df714357.nxcli.io/learning-center/resource-center/damage-specification-standards/dss-r-02-02-drywall-mud-plaster-film/>