

ASK JOE HETZEL

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Mounting to Drywall

Our installers frequently encounter drywall surfaces when mounting garage door brackets or angles. Is it acceptable to mount this type of hardware on a drywall surface?

Joe: DASMA Technical Data Sheet 164 highlights two alternatives for mounting garage door hardware onto drywall:

1. Install a wood buck over the drywall with sufficient anchors to secure the wood buck to the building. The door will then be installed onto the wood buck as a normally acceptable installation on wood jambs.
2. Install the door onto the drywall with lag screws of sufficient length to embed them into the wood substrate, but *only if recommended by the door manufacturer*. Use a stud finder to locate the wood structure behind the drywall.

In either case described above, the following principles should be observed:

- Know the condition of the drywall. See if the drywall is free from cracking, peeling, and moisture-related softening.
- Check the integrity of the fasteners. They should appear to be tightly embedded in the garage framing.
- Make sure the overall connection appears to be tight against the drywall surface, with no looseness in the plane of the surface.

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In any instance, the manufacturer's installation instructions should be closely followed, particularly with respect to drywall surfaces. Contact the manufacturer if drywall is not covered in the instructions. We also strongly recommend that installers contact their local authorities having jurisdiction if there is any question about the acceptability of mounting over drywall.



Automated Gates

I have two questions. When did the automated vehicular gate-related provisions of ASTM F2200 and UL 325 become required by code? And must older automated gates comply with the code?

Joe: ASTM F2200 and UL 325 first entered the codes with the publishing of the 2009 International Building Code, the 2009 International Fire Code, and the 2012 International Residential Code. But remember that these codes must be adopted by municipalities before the codes can be enforced. Check with your local building code authority to see if the IBC, IFC, and IRC have been adopted in your area.

To answer your second question, older motor-operated vehicular gates are not affected by the above codes. However, an older *manually* operated vehicular gate that becomes motor operated will be affected in any municipality where the above codes are adopted and enforced.

Vents and Louvers

What effect do vents and louvers have on the wind design of a garage door? I sell doors in an area where these are required at times.

Joe: When an opening in a garage door is confined to a single vent or louver, it should have minimal effect on the garage door's wind load performance. It also should have minimal effect as an opening that allows the interior to be pressurized.

We have learned from DASMA members that there have been conflicting requirements in Florida regarding garage door vents/louvers. Apparently, some counties require vents/louvers to pass windborne-debris impact requirements, while some cities within counties do not.

Mo Madani, Florida Building Commission staff member, provided DASMA with the following information:

- If a garage door is intended to be supplied with a louver or vent, it would need to be tested with such louver/vent as part of the door product approval process.
- If a louver or vent is put into a door with a product approval that does not account for such a louver/vent, an engineering analysis will be needed.

TDS 173 covers this matter in general terms in the paragraph, "Venting Effect on Door Design." You can find this Technical Data Sheet at www.dasma.com. ■