

## Area Separation Wall Systems

Townhomes, Condominiums, and Apartments are common choices for Americans today. These types of dwellings require special methods of construction to safe, fire resistant, and acoustical separation between the units. Gypsum board area separation wall systems have been designed for this use. Provided the wall systems are constructed according to the design documents and the manufacturers installation instructions, the units will be safe, fire resistant, and provide the acoustical separation needed.

The H-stud area separation wall consists of 2" light-gauge steel H-studs that secure two layers of 1" shaftliner boards. The shaftliner board is typically faced with a moisture-resistant material for protection against the weather during installation. Area separation walls are nonload-bearing walls and should not be used where exposed to constant dampness and/or water.

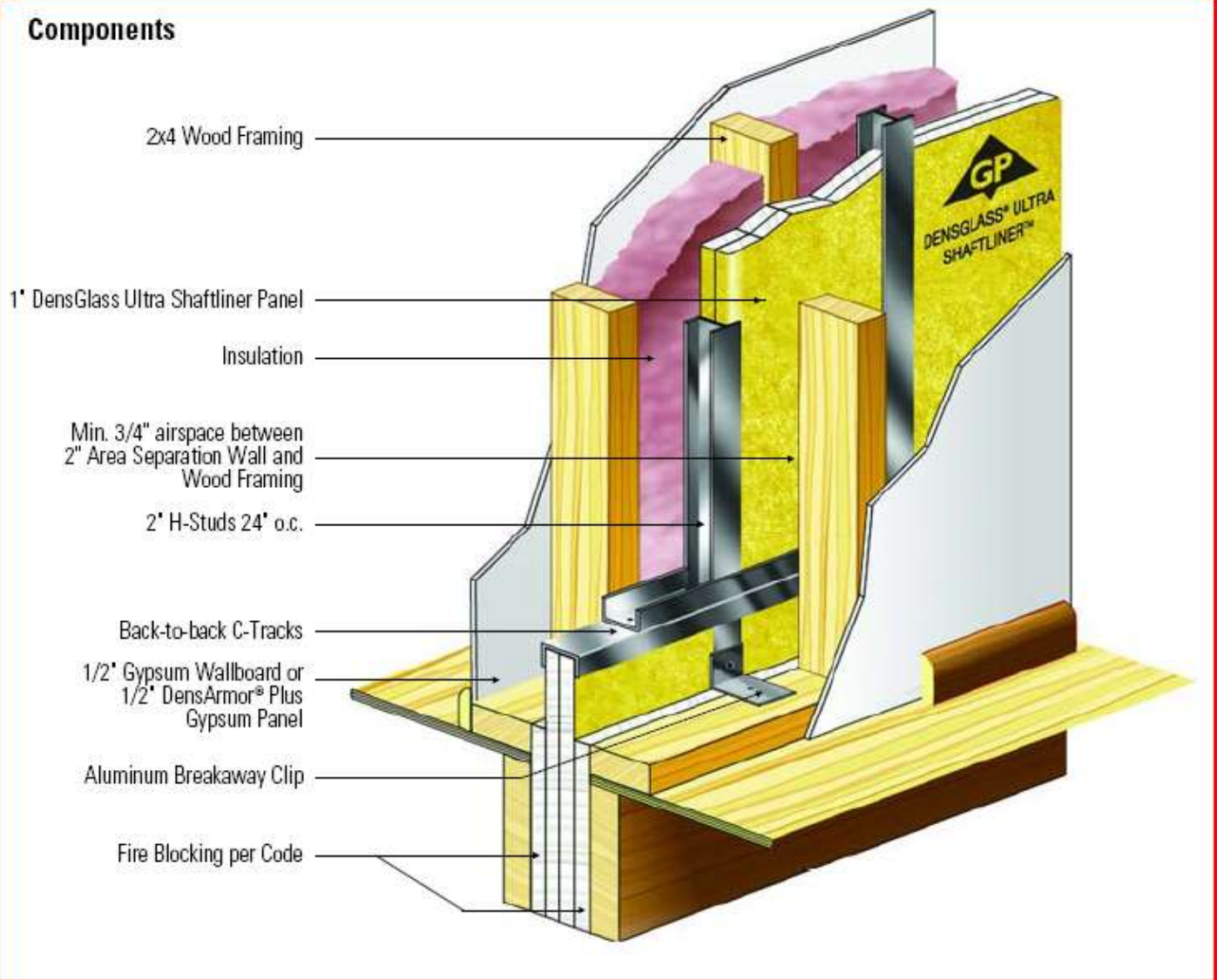
The H-studs are secured at the foundation floor by the flanges of a C-track. The C-track is also used at the roof line or at the parapet and at wall ends. A minimum  $\frac{3}{4}$ " air space is typically required between the wall assembly and any adjacent framing members. Steel H-stud framing members are attached on each side to adjacent framing with breakaway, aluminum clips. The clips are attached to the steel framing using  $\frac{3}{8}$ " type S pan head screws and to adjacent wood framing with  $1\frac{1}{4}$ " type W screws. Clips are typically spaced a maximum of 10' o.c. vertically and every 4' o.c. horizontally. Depending on the height of the wall system, refer to the design documents for vertically spacing. The clips soften at about 1,000° F. and allow the framing to separate from the wall system.

Fire blocking must be provided at intermediate floors and roof locations per the design documents and local building codes. May times, mineral wool or gypsum board is used.



Gypsum Association GA-290

## Components



GP Gypsum, Area Separation Walls

ABCO Construction Services Corporation has developed this information for its clients and friends. The information may contain citations of applicable codes, manufacturer's recommendations and best practices from noted sources.

It is ABCO's desire to present the topic in an unbiased manner, using generally accepted references, to allow those confronted with the topic to make an informed decision. If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact ABCO.

For ease of review the White Paper may be broken into various sections. The first section will contain the overview and summary of the topic. The second section will consist of various definitions and references to applicable sources. The third section will contain the complete references. It is hoped this report design will allow the recipient to gain the level of knowledge in the least amount of time.

This product analysis information is presented for the use of ABCO clients only after consultation. ABCO's analysis is based in part on standardized codes, manufacturer's product information and general industry practices. The analysis and opinions presented are general in nature and should not be relied upon without an in-depth analysis and specific recommendation as to any particular application or use. As with any building practice or method, local jurisdictions may have adopted specific regulations and you are encouraged to consult with your local jurisdiction.