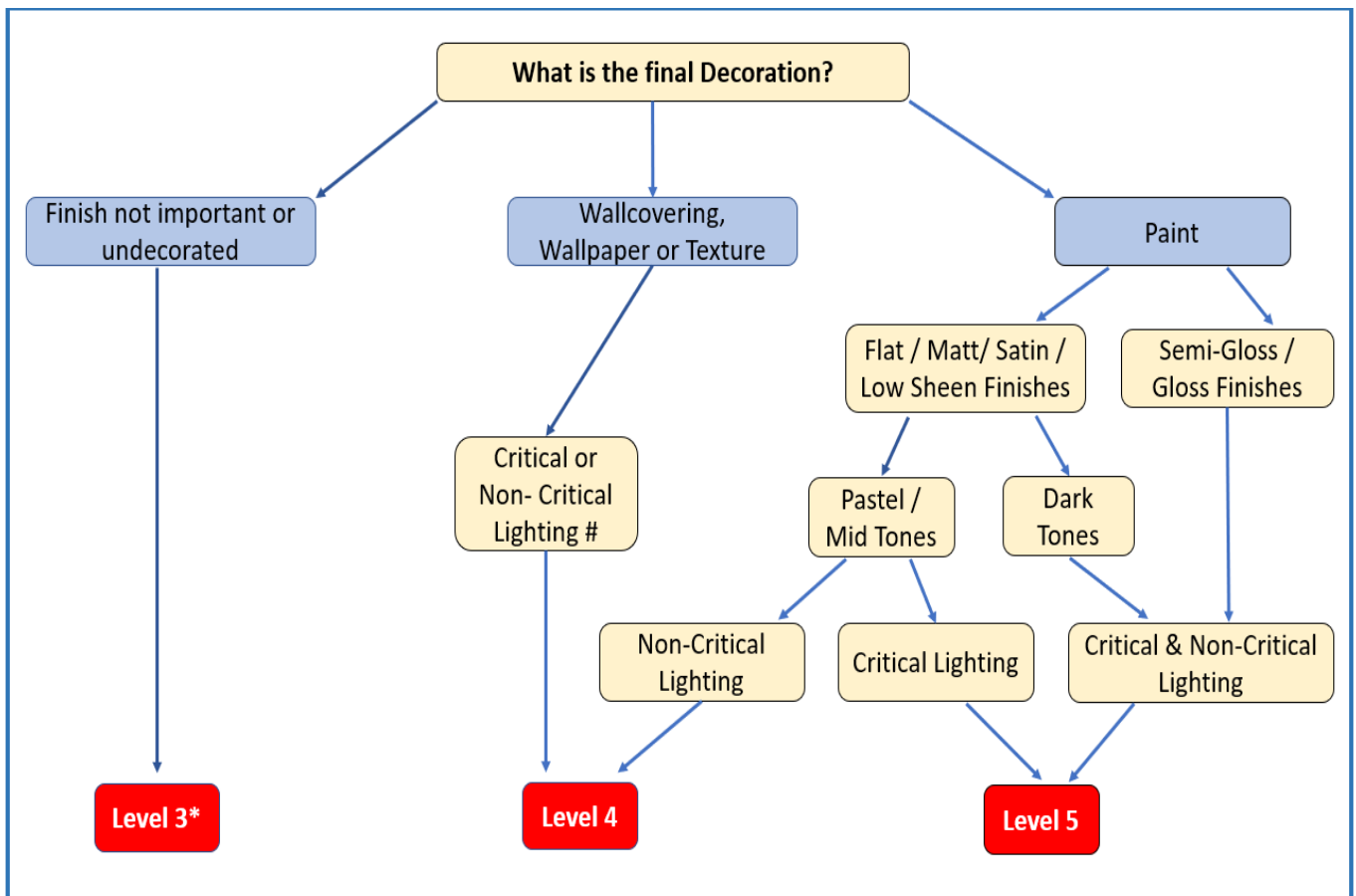


Understanding the 3 levels of finish for plasterboard

Three Levels of Finish for plasterboard are specified in the Australian & NZ Standard AS/NZS 2589:2006. Level 4 and 5 Finishes are commonly specified and encountered in both residential and commercial construction.

Levels of Finish Selection Chart



- # Critical Lighting – when the light source is nearly parallel to the surface.
Non-Critical Lighting – When the light striking the surface is diffuse and/ or at right angles.
- * May not be suitable for subsequent decoration to high levels of quality in the future.
Refer to Level 4 or 5 for upgrading requirements.

Level 3

Level 3 shall be used in areas that do not require decoration such as above ceiling level or inside service shafts and the like. All joints and interior angles shall have tape embedded in joint compound and one separate coat of joint compound applied over all joints and fastener heads. All joint compounds shall be finished smooth. (Generally, this is achieved by scraping off nibs and ridges and the like, with the edge of a trowel.)

Level 4

Level 4 shall be the default level of finish for gypsum linings unless specified otherwise. Flat or low sheen paints shall be used for this level. All joints and interior angles shall have tape embedded in jointing compound and a minimum of two separate coats of jointing compound applied over all joints, angles, fastener heads and accessories. All jointing compound shall be finished evenly and be free of tool marks and ridges in preparation for decoration.

Notes:

- 1) In critical lighting conditions, surface imperfections may still be apparent in a Level 4 surface finish
- 2) Where gloss, semi-gloss or deep tone paints are used, surface imperfections will be more evident.

Level 5

Level 5 is for use where gloss or semi-gloss paints are specified or where critical lighting conditions occur on satin, flat or low sheen paints. Level 5 is characterized by a parity of texture and porosity. The surface texture shall be random in fashion and monolithic, concealing joints and fixing points. All joints and interior angles shall have tape embedded in joint compound plus a minimum of two separate coats of joint compound applied over all joints, angles, fastener heads and accessories. All jointing compound shall be finished smooth and be free of tool marks and ridges. A paint or plaster material shall then be sprayed, rolled, or troweled, over the defined area.

Note:

- Level 5 is difficult to achieve and always requires co-operation of the framer, plasterboard installer, plasterer, and painter in establishing suitable work practices that deliver the agreed paintfinish for the given project
- Some minor imperfections may still be visible in a Level 5 finish; however, these will be minimised, under the additional measures applied under Level 5
- The surface of the defined area may require sanding to be suitable for decoration

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