

Gypsum-based drywall systems promoted for building reuse projects in Germany

Germany's gypsum industry is highlighting the potential of gypsum-based drywall construction systems for the conversion and reuse of existing buildings amid continued housing shortages and growing demand for sustainable construction solutions.

According to the German Gypsum Industry Association (Bundesverband der Gipsindustrie e.V., BVG), the adaptive reuse of vacant office buildings, former commercial properties, attic spaces, and other underutilized structures is increasingly being considered as an alternative to demolition and new construction. The association notes that such projects can help reduce CO₂ emissions by preserving the embodied energy already contained in existing buildings while avoiding additional land consumption.

The industry group emphasizes that modern gypsum-based lightweight and drywall systems are particularly suitable for refurbishment and conversion projects due to their flexibility, fast

installation, and low moisture input during construction. The systems also support demanding fire protection and acoustic performance requirements commonly associated with residential conversion projects.

In addition, gypsum drywall systems can contribute to more efficient space utilization through slim wall constructions while allowing flexible interior layouts and easier integration of building services. The association also points to the recyclability of gypsum materials and their role in supporting circular construction practices.

Office-to-residential conversions are currently attracting particular attention in Germany as changing workplace trends and increased remote working continue to leave office space vacant in many urban areas. According to the association, gypsum-based drywall systems can help accelerate the delivery of new living space while supporting modern renovation and sustainable building strategies.



Figure 1 A former insurance administration building was converted into 167 apartments (Photo credit: Knauf/Bernd Dücke)



Figure 2 Modern gypsum-based drywall systems provide fast installation together with high acoustic and fire protection performance (Photo credit: Knauf/Bernd Dücke)



Figure 3 A former production facility for bicycles, mopeds, and typewriters, which had already been converted into office space in the 1990s, was redeveloped into 88 apartments and two commercial units (Photo credit: Knauf/Sigi Lustenberger)

About the German Gypsum Industry Association (BVG)

The German Gypsum Industry Association (Bundesverband der Gipsindustrie e.V., BVG) represents Germany's gypsum mining and gypsum manufacturing industry. The association actively

promotes sustainable gypsum-based construction solutions, modern drywall systems, and technical innovation in the building sector through industry collaboration, research support, and standardization activities.

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