

AT-A-GLANCE COMPARISON (all based on 15/32" panels)

Blazeguard

Fire-Retardant (FRT) Plywood

Gypsum

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What it is	Pyrotite coating over APA-rated panel.	Plywood impregnated with fire-retardant chemicals.	Hydrated calcium sulfate covered by thin paper sheets.
How it works	Protects wood surface from flame and heat.	Panel chemically disintegrates at elevated temperatures.	Calcium sulfate retards flame.
Strength	Improves allowable load over untreated panels.	Reduces allowable load over untreated panels. Initial and thermal degradation.	No structural strength.
Fire performance	Class A, 3X burn-through resistance.	Class A, poor burn-through resistance.	Class A, good burn-through resistance.
Job-site handling	Can be left outside. Easy to work with.	If wet, must re-dry to ≤ 15 % moisture. Harsh to work with.	Fragile, destroyed if wet.
Warping/Rippling	Coating improves flatness; no warping or bending.	May ripple/warp ("potato chip board" effect).	No warping/bending.
Environment	Non-toxic, non-hazardous, landfill safe.	Chemicals can leach into ground. Unused/rippled boards may be chemical waste.	Restricted from some landfill sites.
Warranty	Transferable limited lifetime warranty, Barrier serviced.	20-40 year limited warranty, non-transferable; builder serviced.	Guaranteed free from defects, generally 30 days.
Mold/Mildew	Resistant	Depends on formulation	Not resistant
Total Cost (installed)	Best Value (including cost of labor, warranty).	Average material cost. Greater waste (due to rippling). Builder responsible for callbacks.	Most expensive (total cost includes labor & materials; blocking, fire-taping, etc.).