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## case study

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JOB . . . . .RiverWoods Retirement  
Community

LOCATION . . .Melrose Park, IL

ARCHITECT . .Drywall Service Inc.,  
Melrose Park, IL

PRODUCT . . .Drywall Grid System

### The Challenge:

Drywall Service Inc. frames and drywalls about 1,500 condominium and apartment units a year in the Chicago metropolitan area. As a result, it is always looking for ways to speed construction. Recently, the firm was responsible for the installation of all framing and drywall at RiverWoods, an 8-story, 124-unit facility for retirees in Melrose Park, Illinois.

### The Solution:

Drywall Service uses the Armstrong Drywall Grid System for ceiling installations whenever possible instead of a traditional bar joist and hat channel system. By doing so, it saves approximately 20% in installation time. It also results in a better job.

According to company Vice President, Bob Madura, Jr., the Drywall Grid System helps solve two problems that can occur in a typical bar joist installation.

"First, bar joists are not always set level," he says. "There can be ups and downs. Consequently, when the drywall is attached, the result is a rolling ceiling. With the Drywall Grid System, we can laser out from the wall angle and get a perfectly level ceiling, independent of where bar joists may or may not be.

"The other problem is that bar joists don't always run all the way to the wall," he continues. "It's possible to have a gap where bar joists stop. When bidding a job, we don't always have the steel erector's drawings. So, we assume we can install hat channel all the way to the wall. Then we discover we can't and have to spend time manually framing a system to fill the gap. If we install the Drywall Grid System, it becomes irrelevant where bar joists stop.

"We like to keep our installation procedures as simple and quick as possible in the field," Madura concludes. "The Drywall Grid System helps us do that."

