



Standard Terminology Relating to Gypsum and Related Building Materials and Systems¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation C 11; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ε) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This standard contains terminology relating to gypsum and related building materials and systems. The terms are generically defined. More specific and expanded definitions may appear in appropriate standards.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

- C 22/C 22M Standard Specification for Gypsum²
- C 28 Specification for Gypsum Plasters²
- C 35 Specification for Inorganic Aggregates for Use in Gypsum Plaster²
- C 36 Specification for Gypsum Wallboard²
- C 37 Specification for Gypsum Lath²
- C 52 Specification for Gypsum Partition Tile or Block³
- C 59 Specification for Gypsum Casting and Molding Plaster²
- C 61 Specification for Gypsum Keene's Cement²
- C 79 Specification for Gypsum Sheathing Board²
- C 317 Specification for Gypsum Concrete²
- C 318 Specification for Gypsum Formboard³
- C 472 Test Methods for Physical Testing of Gypsum, Gypsum Plasters and Gypsum Concrete²
- C 473 Test Methods for Physical Testing of Gypsum Board Products and Gypsum Lath²
- C 475 Specification for Joint Compound and Joint Tape for Finishing Gypsum Board²
- C 557 Specification for Adhesives for Fastening Gypsum Wallboard to Wood Framing²
- C 587 Specification for Gypsum Veneer Plaster²
- C 588 Specification for Gypsum Base for Veneer Plasters²
- E 84 Test Method for Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials⁴
- E 96 Test Methods for Water Vapor Transmission of Materials⁵
- E 119 Test Methods for Fire Tests of Building Construction and Materials⁴

¹ This terminology is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee C-11 on Gypsum and Related Building Materials and Systems and are the direct responsibility of Subcommittee C11.91 on Terminology and Editorial.

Current edition approved Oct. 10, 1998. Published March 1999. Originally published as C 11 – 16 T. Last previous edition C 11 – 95a.

² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 04.01.

³ Discontinued: See 1982 *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 04.01.

⁴ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 04.07.

⁵ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 04.06.

E 337 Test Method for Measuring Humidity With a Psychrometer (The Measurement of Wet- and Dry-Bulb Temperatures)⁶

3. Terminology

accelerator, *n*—a material that will shorten the setting time of gypsum plasters.

accessories, *n*—linear formed metal, metal and paper, or plastic members fabricated for the purpose of forming corners, edges, control joints, or decorative effects in conjunction with gypsum board and plaster assemblies.

adhesive, *n*—a substance capable of holding materials together by surface attachment.

admixture, *n*—a material other than water, aggregate, or inorganic cementitious material that is used as an ingredient in gypsum plaster or cement plaster and is added to the batch immediately before or during job mixing.

aggregate, *n*—an inert granular material which may be added to gypsum plasters (C 35).

all purpose compound, *n*—a compound formulated and manufactured to serve as a taping or finishing compound, or both.

anhydrite, *n*—the mineral consisting primarily of anhydrous calcium sulfate, CaSO₄.

arris (of an arch), *n*—the outside corner or angle formed by the meeting of a wall surface with the curved surface of an arch (see Fig. 1).

base coat, *n*—the first layer or layers of plaster applied over a lath or other substrate. The first application is normally called a scratch coat and the second application is referred to as a brown coat.

base coat floating, *n*—the finishing act of spreading, compacting, and smoothing of the base coat plaster to a reasonably true plane.

bedding coat, *n*—that coat of plaster to receive aggregate or other decorative material of any size, impinged or embedded into its surface, before it sets.

bond plaster, *n*—a calcined gypsum plaster specially formulated for application over rough monolithic concrete as a bonding coat for a subsequent gypsum plaster layer (C 28).

bridging, *n*—*in framing*, sections of wood or metal pieces used between framing members to stiffen, give lateral

⁶ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 11.03.

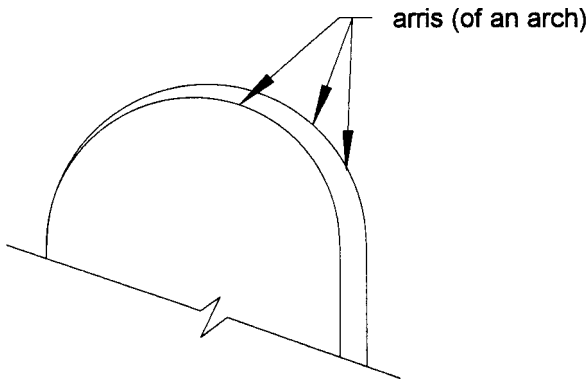


FIG. 1 Arries (of an Arch)

support, and minimize rotation.

brown coat, n—the second coat in three-coat gypsum plaster application.

building construction joint, n—a designed division of a building that allows movement of all component parts of the building, in any plane, which may be caused by thermal, seismic, wind loading or any other force. The construction of the separation is accomplished by one of the following methods: (1) manufactured devices suitable for this application, or (2) by field fabrication of suitable materials.

calcined gypsum, n—a dry powder; primarily calcium sulfate hemihydrate, resulting from calcination of gypsum; cementitious base for production of most gypsum plasters: also called plaster of paris; sometimes called stucco.

calcium sulfate, n—the chemical compound CaSO_4 .

cementitious material, n—a material that, when mixed with water, with or without aggregate, provides the plasticity and the cohesive and adhesive properties necessary for placement, and the formation of a rigid mass.

combined water, n—the water chemically held, as water of crystallization, by the calcium sulfate dihydrate or hemihydrate crystal.

compressive strength, n—the maximum load sustained by a standard specimen of a material when subjected to a crushing force.

consistency, n—a property of a material determined by the complete flow force relation (C 557).

consistency (normal), n—the number of millilitres of water per 100 g of gypsum plaster or gypsum concrete required to produce a mortar or a slurry of specified fluidity (C 472).

control (expansion-contraction) joint, n—a designed separation in the system materials that allows for movement caused by expansion or contraction of the system. The construction of the separation is accomplished by one of the following methods: (1) manufactured devices suitable for this application, or (2) by field fabrication of suitable materials.

core (of gypsum board), n—the hardened material filling the space between the face and back papers consisting substantially of rehydrated gypsum with additives.

cored tile or block, n—see **gypsum tile or block** (C 52).

corner reinforcement, exterior, n—a preformed section of wire or expanded sheet steel, for the reinforcement of exterior stucco external corners (arries).

cure (portland cement plaster or stucco), v—(1) to provide conditions conducive to the hydration process of portland

cement plaster or stucco.

(2) to maintain proper temperature and a sufficient quantity of water within the plaster to ensure cement hydration.

dash-bond coat, n—a thick slurry of portland cement, sand, and water, machine-sprayed or hand-dashed with a paddle or stiff-bristled broom to any acceptable surface, to provide improved adhesion and a key for the subsequent portland cement plaster or stucco coat.

density, n—the weight per unit volume of a material (C 472).

edge (of gypsum board), n—the paper-bound edge as manufactured.

embedding compound—see **taping compound**.

end (of gypsum board), n—the end perpendicular to the paper-bound edge. The gypsum core is always exposed.

expansion joint, n—see **control (expansion-contraction) joint**.

face, n—the surface designed to be left exposed to view or to receive decoration or additional finishes.

featured edge, n—an edge configuration of the paper bound edge of gypsum board that provides special design or performance.

fineness modulus, n—an empirical factor obtained by adding total percentages of a sample of aggregate retained on each of a specified series of sieves and dividing by 100. The sieve sizes used are: No. 100 (150 μm), No. 50 (300 μm), No. 30 (600 μm), No. 16 (1.18 mm), No. 8 (2.36 mm), No. 4 (4.75 mm), $\frac{3}{8}$ in. (9.5 mm), $\frac{3}{4}$ in. (19.0 mm), $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. (38.1 mm) and larger, increasing in the ratio of 2 to 1.

finish coat, n—the final layer of plaster applied over a basecoat or other substrate.

finish coat floating, n—the finishing act of spreading, compacting, and smoothing the finish coat plaster or stucco to a specified surface texture.

finishing compound, n—(sometimes called *topping compound*) a compound specifically formulated and manufactured for use over taping or all purpose compounds to provide a smooth and level surface for the application of decoration.

fire-resistance classification, n—a standard rating of fire-resistance and protective characteristics of a building construction or assembly (E 119).

flame spread classification, n—a standard rating of relative surface burning characteristics of a building material as compared to a standard material (E 84).

flexural strength, n—the maximum load sustained by a standard specimen of a sheet material when subjected to a bending force.

framing member, n—stud, plate, track, joist, furring, and other support to which a gypsum panel product, or metal plaster base is attached.

free water, n—all water contained by gypsum board or plaster in excess of that chemically held as water of crystallization.

gauging plaster, n—a calcined gypsum plaster used with lime for a finish coat (C 28).

grout, n—gypsum or portland cement plaster used to fill crevices or to fill hollow metal frames.

gypsum, n—the mineral consisting primarily of fully hydrated