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Standard Terminology for Exterior Insulation and Finish Systems (EIFS)¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This terminology covers terms and definitions pertaining to materials and processes used in the design and application of exterior insulation and finish systems (EIFS).

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards*:²

C 631 [Specification for Bonding Compounds for Interior Gypsum Plastering](#)

E 2112 [Practice for Installation of Exterior Windows, Doors and Skylights](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

accessories, *n*—preformed metal, fiberglass, or plastic members for use to form corners, edges, control joints, or decorative effects.

aesthetic joint, *n*—a deprecated term. See **aesthetic reveal**.

aesthetic reveal, *n*—a groove cut into the insulation board which serves the function of decoration or to provide a starting or stopping point for finish-coat application, or both.

back wrapping, *n*—a deprecated term. See **wrap**.

base coat, *n*—the initial wet-state material, either factory or field-mixed, used to encapsulate the nonmetallic reinforcing mesh or fasten the insulation to the substrate.

cold joint, *n*—the visible junction in a finish coat.

cure, *v*—to develop the ultimate properties of a wet-state material by a chemical process.

drainage mat, *n*—component used in some EIFS-clad drainage wall assemblies, a corrosion resistive material used as a spacer to provide a drainage path between the EIFS and the weather resistive barrier.

¹ This terminology is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E06 on Performance of Buildings and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E06.58 on Exterior Insulation and Finish Systems (EIFS).

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² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

dry, *v*—to develop the ultimate properties of a wet-state material solely by evaporation of volatile ingredients.

durability, *n*—the capability of a building assembly, component, product, or construction to maintain serviceability over not less than a specified time.

EIFS-clad barrier wall assembly, *n*—a wall assembly for which the EIFS cladding provides weather resistance for the EIFS clad portion of the assembly.

EIFS-clad drainage wall assembly, *n*—a wall assembly incorporating a means of drainage between the EIFS and a weather resistive barrier, for incidental moisture resulting from a breach in the EIFS, to the exterior of the EIFS clad portion of the assembly.

embed, *v*—to encapsulate the nonmetallic reinforcing mesh in the base coat.

expansion joint, *n*—a structural separation between building elements that allow independent movement without damage to the assembly.

exterior insulation and finish system (EIFS), *n*—nonload bearing, exterior wall cladding system that consists of an insulation board attached either adhesively or mechanically, or both, to the substrate; an integrally reinforced base coat; and a textured protective finish coat.

factory mix, *n*—a material that is prepared at the point of manufacture and is ready to use without the addition of other materials, except possibly water to adjust consistency.

flash set (quick set), *n*—the early hardening or stiffness in the working characteristics of Portland-cement paste, mortar, or concrete, usually with the evolution of considerable heat. Stiffness cannot be dispelled nor the plasticity regained by further mixing without addition of water; also known as quick set.

field mix, *n*—a material that is mixed in the field with other components or water, or both.

finish coat, *n*—the final wet-state material, which provides color and texture, applied over the reinforced base coat.

framing member, *n*—studs, joists, runners (tracks), bridging, bracing, and related accessories manufactured or supplied in wood for hot- or cold-formed steel.

initial grab, *n*—the ability of a wet-state material to remain in place initially after it has been applied.