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Standard Terminology Relating to Gypsum and Related Building Materials and Systems¹

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1. Scope*

1.1 This standard covers 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:²

- C 22/C 22M Specification for Gypsum
- C 28/C 28M Specification for Gypsum Plasters
- C 35 Specification for Inorganic Aggregates for Use in Gypsum Plaster
- C 36/C 36M Specification for Gypsum Wallboard³
- C 37/C 37M Specification for Gypsum Lath³
- C 52 Specification for Gypsum Partition Tile or Block³
- C 59/C 59M Specification for Gypsum Casting Plaster and Gypsum Molding Plaster
- C 61/C 61M Specification for Gypsum Keene's Cement
- C 79/C 79M Specification for Gypsum Sheathing Board³
- C 317/C 317M Specification for Gypsum Concrete
- C 318/C 318M Specification for Gypsum Formboard
- C 472 Test Methods for Physical Testing of Gypsum, Gypsum Plasters and Gypsum Concrete
- C 473 Test Methods for Physical Testing of Gypsum Panel Products
- C 475/C 475M Specification for Joint Compound and Joint Tape for Finishing Gypsum Board
- C 557 Specification for Adhesives for Fastening Gypsum Wallboard to Wood Framing
- C 587 Specification for Gypsum Veneer Plaster
- C 588/C 588M Specification for Gypsum Base for Veneer Plasters³

- E 84 Test Method for Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials
- E 96/E 96M Test Methods for Water Vapor Transmission of Materials
- E 119 Test Methods for Fire Tests of Building Construction and Materials
- E 337 Test Method for Measuring Humidity with a Psychrometer (the Measurement of Wet- and Dry-Bulb Temperatures)

3. Terminology

- accelerator**, *n*—a material that reduces setting time.
- accessories**, *n*—products fabricated for the purpose of forming corners, edges, control joints, or decorative effects.
- adhesive**, *n*—a substance capable of holding materials together by surface attachment.
- admixture**, *n*—a material other than water, aggregates, hydraulic cementitious material, and fiber reinforcement that is used as an ingredient to modify properties and is added to the batch before or during its mixture.
- 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).
- basecoat**, *n*—the first layer or layers of plaster applied over lath or other substrate.

DISCUSSION—The first application is normally called a scratch coat and the second application is referred to as a brown coat.

- 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/C 28M)

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

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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.

³ Withdrawn.

*A Summary of Changes section appears at the end of this standard.

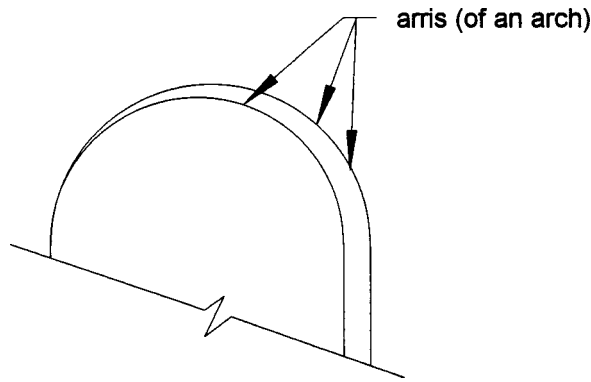


FIG. 1 Arris (of an Arch)

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

brown coat, *n*—the second layer in three-coat 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.

coat, *n*—a layer of plaster applied in a single operation.

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)

cornerbead, *n*—an accessory for outside corners.

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

cure (portland cement plaster or stucco), *v*—(1) to provide conditions conducive to the hydration process of portland cement plaster or stucco, or (2) to maintain proper temperature and a sufficient quantity of water within the plaster to ensure cement hydration.

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

edge (of glass mat gypsum panels), *n*—the bound edge as manufactured.

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

edge trim, *n*—an accessory to cover exposed ends or edges of gypsum board.

embedding compound—see **taping compound**.

end (of glass mat gypsum panels), *n*—the end perpendicular to the bound edge. The gypsum core is always exposed.

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.

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.

floating, *v*—the act of spreading, compacting, or consolidating to achieve a specified uniform appearance.

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