



Designation: **C488 – 05 (Reapproved 2010) C488 – 16**

Standard Test Method for Conducting Exterior Exposure Tests of Finishes for Thermal Insulation¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation C488; 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 test method covers out-of-doors exposure testing of finishes that are normally field-applied to thermal insulation ~~which may and possibly include joints or joint sealants, or both. Such exposure may be is~~ essential prior to the determination of certain physical ~~properties—properties when the finish is to be exposed to exterior weather conditions. This test method may also indicate~~ indicates possible compatibility problems between the joint sealant and the finish as well as the ability of the finish to span a dry joint. This test method is not intended to evaluate mildew resistance, efflorescence, or chemical resistance.

NOTE 1—For testing free plastic films, see Practice [D1435](#).

1.2 This test method does not prescribe the method of application, test duration, or inspection intervals.

1.3 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to SI units that are provided for information only and are not considered standard.

1.4 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

[C168 Terminology Relating to Thermal Insulation](#)
[D1435 Practice for Outdoor Weathering of Plastics](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions:* Terminology [C168](#) applies to the terms used in this test method.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 This test method specifies out-of-doors exposure, under ambient conditions, of field-applied finishes on thermal insulations, utilizing a minimum of three test specimens and one control specimen stored indoors.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 Both physical and chemical changes ~~may possibly~~ occur from weather exposure, and these changes affect performance properties, service life, and maintenance schedules. For this reason, tests of properties relating to performance ~~should~~ shall be made both before and after specific periods of outdoor exposure.

5.2 This test method recognizes that differing geographical locations, environmental conditions, differences between surface temperatures and ambient temperatures, and test durations ~~may~~ have extremely varied effects upon the test results.

5.3 This test method is to be used for comparative qualitative testing.

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee [C16](#) on Thermal Insulation and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee [C16.33](#) on Insulation Finishes and Moisture.

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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.