



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.

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.

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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.

initial set, *n*—a time-related set caused by the hydration process.

lamina, *n*—composite of the base coat, reinforcement, and finish coat.

mechanical fastener, *n*—a corrosion-resistant component used to attach the insulation board to the substrate or framing member.

nonmetallic reinforcing mesh, *n*—a fiberglass component of the EIFS encapsulated in the base coat to strengthen the system.

NOTE 1—Nonmetallic reinforcing mesh is available in various weights to achieve different levels of impact resistance.

pot life, *n*—the duration of time that the wet-state remains workable after it has been mixed.

primers, *n*—liquid coatings applied to improve the adhesion of the EIFS to the substrate or of the finish to the base coat

NOTE 2—Primers are sometimes applied to improve the water resistance of cementitious base coats.

reinforced base coat, *n*—base coat that has been reinforced with the nonmetallic reinforcing mesh.

running bond, *n*—pattern used when installing the thermal insulation board, to offset the vertical insulation board joints

from joints in previous rows of insulation board.

substrate, *n*—surface to which the EIFS is applied.

surface sealer, *n*—material used to enhance weather resistance.

temper, *v*—to bring to a workable state by adding water.

texture, *n*—any surface appearance as contrasted to a smooth surface.

thermal insulation board, *n*—a system component of a specific type and density that functions to reduce heat flow through the wall and serves as the surface to receive the base coat.

weather-resistive barrier, *n*—a material conforming to Practice E 2112, located behind the EIFS.

wet edge, *n*—the leading edge of a continuously applied wet-state material.

wet-state materials, *n*—the adhesive, base coat, and finish coat applied in liquid or semiliquid state.

wrap, *v*—to protect the exposed edges of thermal insulation board.

4. Keywords

4.1 base coat; definitions; EIFS; exterior insulation and finish system; finish; insulation; mechanical fastener; reinforcing mesh; synthetic stucco; terminology

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