



Standard Practice for Application of Direct-Applied Exterior Finish Systems¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This practice covers the minimum requirements and procedures for field application of Direct-applied Exterior Finish Systems (DEFS). Direct-applied exterior finish systems are coating systems applied over various substrates with non-metallic reinforcing mesh, in which the base coat ranges from not less than 1/16 in. (1.6 mm) to 3/32 in. (2.4 mm) in dry thickness, depending on the mass of the reinforcing mesh. This base coat is subsequently covered with a finish coat that is available in a variety of textures and colors.

1.2 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as the standard. The metric values given in parentheses are approximate and are provided for information purposes only.

1.3 *This standard may involve hazardous materials, operations and equipment. 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:

- C 11 Terminology Relating to Gypsum and Related Building Materials and Systems²
- C 1177/C 1177M Specification for Glass Mat Gypsum Substrate for Use as Sheathing²
- C 1186 Specification for Flat Non-Asbestos Fiber-Cement Sheets³
- C 1278/C 1278M Specification for Fiber-Reinforced Gypsum Panel²
- E 1825 Guide for Evaluation of Exterior Building Wall Materials, Products, and Systems⁴

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions used in this standard shall be in accordance with Terminology C 11.

3.2 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

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

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

3.2.3 *base coat*, *n*—a material, either factory or field-mixed, used to cover the substrate and to encapsulate the reinforcing mesh.

3.2.4 *cold joint*, *n*—the visible junction in an exterior finish.

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

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

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

3.2.8 *embed*, *v*—to encapsulate a non-metallic reinforcing mesh in either the joint compound or exterior finish.

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

3.2.10 *factory mixed*, *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.

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

3.2.12 *finish coat*, *n*—the final wet state material, that provides color or additional texture, applied over the reinforced base coat.

3.2.13 *flash set (quick set)*, *n*—the early hardening or stiffness in the working characteristics of a 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.”

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

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

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

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

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee C11 on Gypsum and Related Building Materials and Systems and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee C11.05 on Application of Exterior Insulating and Finish Systems and Related Products.

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

³ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 04.05.

⁴ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 04.12.