

mpi architectural painting specification manual

mpi architectural painting specification manual serves as a cornerstone for professionals involved in specifying, applying, and inspecting architectural coatings. This comprehensive guide, developed by the Master Painters Institute (MPI), provides essential information for ensuring the longevity, aesthetics, and performance of painted surfaces in a wide array of architectural projects. Understanding its intricacies is crucial for architects, specifiers, painting contractors, and building owners alike. This article will delve into the core components of the MPI architectural painting specification manual, exploring its purpose, key sections, the importance of MPI approved products, and how it contributes to successful project outcomes, all while maintaining a focus on delivering high-quality, durable finishes.

Understanding the MPI Architectural Painting Specification Manual

The MPI architectural painting specification manual is more than just a document; it's a standardized framework designed to elevate the quality and consistency of architectural painting across the industry. Its primary goal is to provide clear, unambiguous guidelines that minimize ambiguity, reduce disputes, and ultimately ensure that the finished painted surface meets the highest standards of performance and appearance. By establishing precise requirements for surface preparation, material selection, application techniques, and quality control, the manual empowers specifiers to articulate their project needs effectively and equips contractors with the knowledge to meet those demands. This systematic approach fosters trust and reliability in the painting process.

Purpose and Importance of MPI Specifications

The overarching purpose of the MPI architectural painting specification manual is to safeguard the investment made in architectural finishes. It aims to prevent common painting failures such as peeling, blistering, chalking, and color fading by mandating specific product types, performance standards, and application procedures. For architects and specifiers, it offers a reliable tool for creating detailed project documents that reflect best practices. For contractors, it provides a clear roadmap for execution, ensuring they are aware of and can meet client expectations. Ultimately, adherence to MPI specifications leads to more durable, aesthetically pleasing, and cost-effective painted surfaces over the lifecycle of a building. This is particularly important in high-traffic or environmentally challenging areas where paint performance is critical.

Key Sections of the MPI Specification Manual

The MPI architectural painting specification manual is typically organized into distinct sections, each addressing a specific aspect of the painting process. These sections work in concert to provide a holistic approach to specification writing and project execution. Common sections include:

- General requirements and administrative procedures.
- Surface preparation guidelines for various substrates like concrete, drywall, wood, and metal.
- Detailed product specifications, often referencing MPI Approved Product lists.
- Application instructions, including methods, environmental conditions, and recoat times.
- Quality assurance and quality control measures.
- Repair and touch-up procedures.
- Specialty coatings and systems for unique applications.

Each of these sections is meticulously crafted to provide granular detail, leaving little room for interpretation and ensuring a standardized outcome regardless of the project's location or the specific contractors involved. The depth of information within each section underscores the commitment to excellence inherent in MPI standards.

MPI Approved Products: The Cornerstone of Quality

A fundamental aspect of the MPI architectural painting specification manual is its emphasis on MPI Approved Products. This system ensures that the materials specified have undergone rigorous testing to meet established performance criteria. By relying on these pre-qualified products, specifiers can be confident that the chosen paints, primers, and coatings will perform as intended and contribute to a successful, long-lasting finish.

The MPI Product Approval Process

The MPI product approval process is a stringent, multi-stage evaluation designed to guarantee that products consistently meet or exceed performance benchmarks. Manufacturers submit their products for testing in accredited independent laboratories. These tests assess critical properties such as adhesion, scrub resistance, stain resistance, color retention, and resistance to environmental factors. Only products that successfully pass these demanding tests are added to the MPI Approved Product list for specific categories, such as interior paints, exterior coatings, or specialized primers.

Benefits of Specifying MPI Approved Products

Specifying MPI Approved Products offers numerous advantages. Firstly, it simplifies the specification process by providing a curated list of reliable materials. Secondly, it minimizes the risk of product failure, thereby reducing costly rework and warranty claims. Thirdly, it promotes a level playing field for manufacturers who invest in producing high-quality, durable coatings. For building owners and facility managers, using MPI Approved

Products ensures a greater return on investment through extended service life and reduced maintenance requirements. This proactive approach to material selection is key to achieving long-term project success and client satisfaction.

Surface Preparation: The Foundation of a Lasting Finish

Regardless of the quality of the paint product, a poorly prepared surface will inevitably lead to premature coating failure. The MPI architectural painting specification manual dedicates significant attention to detailing the critical steps involved in proper surface preparation for a wide range of substrates.

Substrate-Specific Preparation Techniques

Different building materials require unique approaches to surface preparation. The MPI manual provides detailed instructions tailored to each substrate. For example:

- Concrete surfaces may require cleaning, etching, or patching to ensure proper adhesion.
- Drywall often needs joint taping, filling, sanding, and priming to create a uniform surface.
- Wood surfaces may necessitate cleaning, sanding, and the application of appropriate wood primers to seal knots and prevent tannin bleed.
- Ferrous metal surfaces require thorough cleaning, rust removal, and the application of corrosion-inhibiting primers.

These substrate-specific instructions are vital for achieving optimal paint performance and preventing issues like adhesion loss or substrate degradation.

Cleaning and Decontamination Standards

Contaminants such as dirt, grease, oil, mold, mildew, and efflorescence can severely compromise paint adhesion and durability. The MPI specifications outline rigorous cleaning and decontamination procedures to ensure that surfaces are free from such detrimental substances. This often involves washing, degreasing, and sometimes specific treatments to eradicate biological growth before any coating is applied. Thorough cleaning is a non-negotiable step in achieving a high-quality painted finish.

Application and Quality Control Measures

Beyond selecting the right products and preparing the surfaces, the MPI architectural painting specification manual provides detailed guidance on the application process and the necessary quality control checks to ensure

adherence to standards.

Application Methodologies and Environmental Considerations

The manual specifies acceptable application methods, whether by brush, roller, or spray. It also sets forth crucial environmental parameters, such as acceptable temperature ranges, humidity levels, and dew point conditions. Painting in suboptimal environmental conditions can lead to various defects, including poor film formation, blistering, or improper drying. Adhering to these guidelines ensures that the paint cures correctly and achieves its designed performance characteristics.

Inspection and Quality Assurance Protocols

To verify that the painting work meets the specified standards, the MPI manual often includes detailed inspection and quality assurance protocols. These may involve visual inspections for uniformity of color and finish, checks for surface defects, and even tests for film thickness, adhesion, and dry-time compliance. A robust quality assurance program, as outlined in the MPI specifications, is essential for validating the performance of the applied coatings and ensuring client satisfaction throughout the project lifecycle.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the key benefits of using the MPI Architectural Painting Specification Manual for a project?

The MPI Manual ensures consistency, quality, and durability in painting applications. It provides standardized specifications for products and workmanship, leading to predictable performance, reduced risk of failure, and extended lifespan of painted surfaces. This ultimately saves on maintenance costs and enhances the aesthetic appeal and protection of the built environment.

How does the MPI Manual address sustainable and environmentally friendly painting practices?

The MPI Manual incorporates environmentally conscious considerations by specifying low-VOC (Volatile Organic Compound) coatings, promoting proper waste disposal, and recommending materials with reduced environmental impact. It also encourages the use of durable coatings that require less frequent reapplication, further minimizing environmental footprint over the project's lifecycle.

What is the role of MPI Approved Products in the

specification manual?

MPI Approved Products are coatings that have undergone rigorous testing by an independent laboratory to ensure they meet specific performance criteria outlined in the MPI Standards. Using MPI Approved Products in conjunction with the Manual's specifications provides a high degree of confidence in the product's quality and suitability for its intended application.

How does the MPI Manual handle different substrate types and their preparation requirements?

The MPI Manual dedicates sections to various substrate types, including concrete, masonry, ferrous metals, wood, and gypsum board. It details the necessary surface preparation techniques, such as cleaning, rust removal, patching, and priming, specific to each substrate to ensure optimal adhesion and performance of the subsequent paint systems.

What are the trending considerations or updates within recent versions of the MPI Manual that project teams should be aware of?

Recent trending considerations often include enhanced focus on antimicrobial coatings for healthcare and high-traffic areas, updated specifications for high-performance coatings resistant to specific chemicals or environmental conditions, and further integration of digital tools for specification management and product selection. Staying updated with the latest MPI revision is crucial for leveraging these advancements.

Additional Resources

Here are 9 book titles related to MPI architectural painting specification manuals, with descriptions:

1. The Art of the Specification: MPI Standards for Architectural Coatings
This foundational text delves into the core principles and methodologies behind MPI (Master Painters Institute) specifications. It provides a comprehensive overview of how to effectively translate architectural designs into detailed painting requirements, ensuring durability, aesthetics, and compliance with industry standards. Readers will gain an understanding of material selection, surface preparation, and application techniques as dictated by MPI guidelines.

2. Beyond the Surface: Understanding MPI Painting Specification Requirements

This book explores the intricate details of MPI painting specifications, moving beyond a superficial understanding to the practical implications for contractors, specifiers, and owners. It breaks down the complex language of specifications into actionable insights, clarifying the nuances of performance criteria, testing methods, and acceptable tolerances. The text aims to foster a deeper comprehension of why specific requirements exist and how they contribute to successful project outcomes.

3. Material Matters: A Guide to MPI-Approved Architectural Paints and Coatings

Focusing on the products themselves, this manual provides an in-depth look at

the range of paints and coatings approved by MPI. It explains the criteria for MPI approval, including performance characteristics like adhesion, washability, and durability. The book serves as a valuable resource for selecting the appropriate materials for various architectural applications, ensuring they meet the rigorous standards set forth by MPI.

4. The Specifier's Toolkit: Crafting Effective MPI Painting Documents
Designed for architects, designers, and specification writers, this book offers practical guidance on creating clear and unambiguous painting specifications that align with MPI standards. It covers best practices for organizing specification sections, selecting appropriate MPI standards, and ensuring proper terminology. The text equips specifiers with the tools to develop comprehensive documents that minimize confusion and potential disputes on construction projects.

5. From Blueprint to Brushstroke: Implementing MPI Painting Specifications on Site
This practical guide bridges the gap between specification documents and their actual execution in the field. It outlines the essential steps for contractors and painting professionals to interpret and implement MPI painting specifications correctly. The book addresses common challenges encountered during application, the importance of quality control, and how to document compliance with MPI requirements.

6. Color and Durability: Harmonizing Aesthetics with MPI Performance Standards
This title explores the crucial interplay between the aesthetic desires for architectural projects and the performance requirements mandated by MPI specifications. It discusses how to select colors and finishes that not only achieve the desired visual impact but also adhere to MPI's standards for durability and longevity. The book highlights how thoughtful specification can ensure that beautiful finishes remain so for years to come.

7. MPI Compliance: Ensuring Quality in Architectural Painting Projects
This focused resource centers on the importance of MPI compliance and the processes involved in achieving and verifying it. It details the role of MPI's testing laboratories, the certification of products, and the inspection procedures used to ensure adherence to standards. The book is an essential read for anyone involved in ensuring the quality and performance of architectural painting.

8. Sustainable Surfaces: MPI Specifications for Environmentally Conscious Painting
This book examines how MPI specifications contribute to environmentally responsible construction practices through the selection and application of coatings. It highlights MPI's focus on low-VOC (Volatile Organic Compound) products and other sustainable attributes. The text guides readers on specifying paints and coatings that meet both performance demands and environmental goals, aligning with modern green building initiatives.

9. The Inspector's Eye: Verifying MPI Painting Specification Adherence
This manual is specifically tailored for painting inspectors and quality assurance professionals tasked with verifying compliance with MPI specifications. It provides detailed checklists, inspection protocols, and troubleshooting tips for evaluating surface preparation, material application, and final finish quality. The book ensures inspectors have the knowledge and resources to confidently assess whether a painting project meets MPI standards.

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MPI Architectural Painting Specification Manual

Unleash the Power of Precise Painting Specifications: Eliminate Costly Rework and Achieve Architectural Perfection.

Are you tired of vague painting specifications leading to costly rework, frustrating delays, and subpar results on your architectural projects? Do inconsistent paint finishes leave you struggling to meet client expectations and maintain project profitability? The ambiguity surrounding paint selection, application, and quality control can be a significant drain on time and resources. This manual provides the clarity and precision you need to transform your painting projects from a source of stress into a streamlined, successful component of your overall architectural vision.

This comprehensive guide, The MPI Architectural Painting Specification Manual, by [Your Name/Company Name], offers a systematic approach to creating detailed and unambiguous painting specifications. This manual will empower you to confidently manage your painting projects, ensuring consistent quality, minimizing unforeseen expenses, and ultimately delivering exceptional results.

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The MPI Architectural Painting Specification Manual: A Comprehensive Guide

Introduction: Setting the Stage for Success

Architectural painting is more than just applying color to a surface; it's a critical component of the overall building design and construction process. A well-defined painting specification is the cornerstone of a successful project, ensuring the aesthetic vision is realized while minimizing costs and delays. This introduction establishes the importance of precise specifications and how this manual will guide you through the process. We will outline the key benefits of using a structured approach to specification writing, including improved communication between stakeholders, reduced ambiguity, minimized rework, and ultimately, a higher quality finished product that meets or exceeds client expectations. This section emphasizes the use of the MPI (Master Performance Indicators) approach as a means to quantify and qualify success.

Chapter 1: Understanding MPI (Master Performance Indicators) and Their Role in Architectural Painting

This chapter delves into the concept of Master Performance Indicators (MPIs) within the context of architectural painting. MPIs are quantifiable metrics that help measure the success of a project against pre-defined goals. This chapter explains how to identify key MPIs relevant to painting projects, such as:

Surface Preparation Quality: Measured by the degree of smoothness, cleanliness, and adhesion of the substrate before painting. Specific tests and standards can be outlined here.

Paint Coverage and Uniformity: Quantified by the number of coats, the evenness of application, and the absence of visible brush strokes or roller marks.

Durability and Longevity: Measured by the paint's resistance to fading, chipping, peeling, and other forms of degradation. This may incorporate specific testing procedures or expected lifespan based on the paint chosen.

Color Accuracy and Consistency: Defined by the precise color matching to a specified color chart or standard, ensuring consistent color throughout the project. This chapter will provide guidance on colour management systems.

Compliance with Safety and Environmental Regulations: Measured by adherence to relevant health and safety regulations and the use of environmentally friendly paints.

Project Timeline and Budget Adherence: Tracking the project's progress against the scheduled completion date and budget.

We will explore how setting clear MPIs at the outset guides decision-making, ensures accountability, and facilitates objective project evaluation.

Chapter 2: Defining Project Scope and Requirements: Surface Preparation, Paint Selection, and Application Methods

This crucial chapter focuses on the detailed planning stages. We'll cover a systematic approach to

defining the scope of work, including a thorough assessment of the surfaces to be painted. This will include identifying the type of substrate (wood, plaster, metal, etc.), its condition (existing finishes, damage), and its suitability for the chosen paint system. We'll explain how to specify appropriate surface preparation techniques, such as cleaning, priming, and repairing imperfections, using the MPI framework to ensure quality at each step. Furthermore, this section outlines how to select the right paint type (e.g., emulsion, oil-based, acrylic) and finish (e.g., matte, satin, gloss) based on the project's requirements and the desired aesthetic outcome.

We will then examine various application methods, including brushing, rolling, spraying, and their suitability for different surfaces and paints. This includes details on appropriate equipment, techniques for achieving uniform application, and controlling paint wastage.

Chapter 3: Specifying Paint Types and Finishes: Choosing the Right Product for the Job

This chapter provides an in-depth overview of different paint types and finishes, their properties, and their suitability for various applications within architectural painting. It covers various paint chemistries (e.g., acrylic, alkyd, epoxy) and their respective strengths and weaknesses, focusing on performance aspects such as durability, washability, adhesion, and VOC content. We'll discuss different finishes, from matte to high-gloss, their visual impact, and their practical implications (e.g., ease of cleaning, light reflection). Detailed examples of paint specifications, including manufacturer, product code, and color codes, will be provided to illustrate best practices.

Chapter 4: Detailed Application Methods and Techniques: Ensuring Consistent Quality

This chapter focuses on the practical aspects of paint application, outlining various techniques and their suitability for different situations. We'll delve into the specifics of brushing, rolling, and spraying, providing guidance on optimal tool selection, application techniques for achieving even coverage, and managing paint consistency. This section emphasizes the importance of skilled workmanship and proper training for painting crews. We'll also address the issue of dealing with difficult surfaces, corners, edges, and intricate details, while maintaining the high standards dictated by the MPIs.

Chapter 5: Quality Control and Inspection Procedures: Minimizing Defects and Maximizing Durability

This chapter outlines a robust quality control system, ensuring the project adheres to the pre-defined MPIs. We'll detail the inspection procedures at each stage, starting from surface preparation through to the final finish. This includes specifying acceptance criteria for each step, defining methods for detecting defects (e.g., pinholes, uneven coverage, color inconsistencies), and outlining

corrective actions. The chapter will also cover documentation procedures, ensuring a clear record of the entire painting process and any necessary adjustments.

Chapter 6: Health and Safety Regulations for Architectural Painting Projects

This chapter addresses the vital issue of health and safety in architectural painting. We'll provide a comprehensive overview of relevant regulations and best practices, covering topics such as personal protective equipment (PPE), handling hazardous materials (paints, solvents), ventilation, and waste disposal. This section will explain how to comply with local and national regulations, ensuring a safe work environment for all involved.

Chapter 7: Budgeting and Cost Estimation for Painting Projects

This chapter explores the financial aspects of architectural painting, focusing on accurate cost estimation. We'll guide you through the process of creating a detailed budget, including material costs, labor costs, and contingency planning. We'll also cover strategies for optimizing costs without compromising quality, ensuring that the project remains within budget.

Chapter 8: Legal and Contractual Considerations for Painting Specifications

This chapter emphasizes the legal and contractual implications of painting specifications. We'll discuss the importance of clear and unambiguous wording in contracts, specifying liability, dispute resolution mechanisms, and warranty provisions. This section will provide guidance on drafting legally sound specifications that protect both the client and the contractor.

Conclusion: Maintaining Quality and Consistency in Architectural Painting

The conclusion summarizes the key takeaways from the manual, emphasizing the importance of a systematic and comprehensive approach to architectural painting specifications. It reiterates the benefits of using MPIs, ensuring consistent quality, minimizing costs and rework, and ultimately achieving a high-quality, aesthetically pleasing finish.

FAQs

1. What is the difference between MPI and traditional painting specifications? MPI specifications utilize quantifiable metrics to measure success, unlike traditional methods often relying on subjective descriptions.
2. How can MPIs help reduce project costs? By setting clear expectations and standards upfront, MPI minimizes rework and delays, saving significant costs.
3. What type of projects benefit from this manual? Any project involving architectural painting, from residential to large-scale commercial builds.
4. Are specific paint brands recommended in the manual? The manual provides guidance on paint selection based on performance criteria, not specific brands.
5. What level of technical expertise is required to use this manual? The manual is designed to be accessible to both experienced professionals and those new to specification writing.
6. Does the manual include templates and examples? Yes, it contains numerous templates and real-world examples to guide users.
7. How can I ensure the painting contractor understands the MPI specifications? A thorough pre-project briefing and regular site inspections are crucial.
8. What legal issues are addressed in the manual? Contractual obligations, liability, warranties, and dispute resolution are covered.
9. How can I update the MPIs based on project progress? The manual offers techniques to track progress, identify deviations, and adjust the MPIs accordingly.

Related Articles:

1. Mastering Surface Preparation for Architectural Painting: A detailed guide on various surface preparation techniques for different substrates.
2. Choosing the Right Paint for Architectural Projects: An in-depth comparison of various paint types and finishes, and their suitability for different surfaces.
3. Advanced Paint Application Techniques for Professionals: Expert advice on achieving flawless paint application using various methods.
4. Implementing a Robust Quality Control System for Architectural Painting: Step-by-step guide on setting up and maintaining a comprehensive quality control process.
5. Legal and Contractual Aspects of Architectural Painting Contracts: In-depth analysis of legal frameworks and best practices for contract drafting.
6. Environmental Considerations in Architectural Painting: A guide to environmentally friendly

paints, practices, and regulations.

7. Budgeting and Cost Management for Architectural Painting Projects: Practical tips and strategies for effective budgeting and cost control.

8. Health and Safety Regulations for Architectural Painting: A detailed review of relevant safety regulations and best practices.

9. The Importance of MPI in Construction Project Management: A broader overview of using MPIs across various aspects of a construction project.

mpi architectural painting specification manual: The Graphic Standards Guide to Architectural Finishes ARCOM, The American Institute of Architects, 2003-03-24 From ARCOM and The American Institute of Architects A complete visual guide to choosing and using finish materials In this unique guide, the authors of MASTERSPEC and Architectural Graphic Standards join forces to offer architects vital single-source access to the unbiased information they need to evaluate, select, and specify the best finish materials for any job. This powerful visual resource combines hundreds of illustrations from Architectural Graphic Standards with corresponding building material performance and specification information from AIA's MASTERSPEC, published by ARCOM. Use this book during the schematic and design development phases of a project and as an indispensable aid for product selection and specification. Essential for architects, interior designers, and building designers, this vital reference provides information to make informed decisions about specific design goals, such as affordability, environmental friendliness, durability, fire resistance, and esthetic success. Features include: * Unique source of independent, in-depth building product performance information-the one source that gives you reliable building product information before you consult with manufacturers * Covers a full range of standard finish materials and includes selection criteria, details, typical product sizes, and installation and maintenance data * Provides current standards based on research by government, association, and independent testing organizations as well as the input of experienced architects and specifiers Architectural Graphic Standards has served the design community for decades as a virtual 'bible' for architectural detailing. MASTERSPEC Evaluations have long comprised one of the best resources available for building product selection and specification. Consolidating the strong points of both into this new desktop reference is an act of sheer brilliance! -Martin M. Bloomenthal, FAIA, CCS, CSI, Principal, The Hillier Group, Princeton, New Jersey

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of skill and knowledge needed to perform the task adequately, identifies any shifts or changes in technology that affect the task, lists tools and equipment required for the task, and provides an indication of whether the task has been validated by each province and territory. The appendix includes a list of tools and equipment used in the occupation, and a tabulation of the percentage of time a worker spends performing each block and task in a given year (by province/territory and for Canada as a whole).

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Edward Allen, Joseph Iano, 2019-10-15 THE #1 REFERENCE ON BUILDING CONSTRUCTION—UPDATED FROM THE GROUND UP Edward Allen and Joseph Iano's *Fundamentals of Building Construction* has been the go-to reference for thousands of professionals and students of architecture, engineering, and construction technology for over thirty years. The materials and methods described in this new Seventh Edition have been thoroughly updated to reflect the latest advancements in the industry. Carefully selected and logically arranged topics—ranging from basic building methods to the principles of structure and enclosure—help readers gain a working knowledge of the field in an enjoyable, easy-to-understand manner. All major construction systems, including light wood frame, mass timber, masonry, steel frame, light gauge steel, and reinforced concrete construction, are addressed. Now in its Seventh Edition, *Fundamentals of Building Construction* contains substantial revisions and updates. New illustrations and photographs reflect the latest practices and developments in the industry. Revised chapters address exterior wall systems and high-performance buildings, an updated and comprehensive discussion of building enclosure science, evolving tools for assessing environmental and health impacts of building materials, and more. New and exciting developments in mass timber construction are also included. This Seventh Edition includes: 125 new or updated illustrations and photographs, as well as 40 new photorealistic renderings The latest in construction project delivery methods, construction scheduling, and trends in information technology affecting building design and construction Updated discussion of the latest LEED and Living Building Challenge sustainability standards along with expanded coverage of new methods for assessing the environmental impacts of materials and buildings Expanded coverage of mass timber materials, fire resistance of mass timber, and the design and construction of tall wood buildings Revised end-of-chapter sections, including references, websites, key terminology, review questions, and exercises Fully-updated collection of best-in-class ancillary materials: PowerPoint lecture slides, Instructor's Manual, Test Bank, Interactive Exercises, and more Companion book, *Exercises in Building Construction*, available in print and eBook format For the nuts and bolts on building construction practices and materials, *Fundamentals of Building Construction: Materials and Methods*, 7th Edition lays the foundation that every architect and construction professional needs to build a successful career.

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2008 - Learn the fundamentals of programming multiple threads accessing shared memory - Explore mainstream concurrent data structures and the key elements of their design, as well as synchronization techniques from simple locks to transactional memory systems - Visit the companion site and download source code, example Java programs, and materials to support and enhance the learning experience

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Concise Encyclopedia: Discusses and describes applications and practical uses of the materials and processes. Clear definitions and sufficient depth to satisfy the information seekers needs

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