

FAQ's

1. Explain how relevant it is to study material used in Interior Design?

An important part of interior design work is the selection of suitable materials for various elements that make up a particular interior space. Organizing the selection of materials demands knowledge of what is available and an awareness of what is best suited to specific needs and uses. Collecting information about materials, both in memory and in a data file of catalogs, literature and samples is a vital part preparation for interior design work.

2. What are the three essential in evaluating usage of materials in interiors?

Natural Materials - These items exist in nature, except when they need to be superficially modified for use, natural materials remain unchanged.

Eg. Quarried Stone, Natural wood

Processed Materials - The result of converting natural materials into specific forms for practical usage is processed materials.

Eg: Brick, clay tile, veneer, plywood

Synthetic materials - These items do not exist in nature but have been brought into being, or manufactured, through artificial processes.

3. What are the different types of glass used in interiors and their properties?

Special types of glass

1. Laminated or safety glass - Plastic sheets sandwiched between sheets of ordinary glass that resists the tendency of plain glass to shatter into Sharp-edged shards

2. Tempered glass - Glass is treated by heat processing to gain extra strength.

3. Wire glass - Made with embedded mesh of wire that holds a sheet of glass to gather when breakage occurs specially due to heat.

4. Thermal glass - Glass with special insulating properties.

Eg: double glazed, mirrored

5. Suspended particle device (SPD) glass - Glass made with a layer of suspended-particle device film to produce variable

transparency.

When varied electrical voltage is applied the film can be varied from clear to fully opaque.

4. List the different types of metals and their application interior spaces?

1. Steel – Many small elements such as door frames, doors, window sashes, handrails and items of hardware are made of steel. Most steel requires protective finish such as a paint or plating with a non rusting material such as chromium. Stainless steel resists rusting but because of its high strength is difficult to cut and work.

2. Iron – Wrought iron is sometimes used for decorative railings and grill work.

3. Aluminium – The light weight and resistance to rusting characteristic of aluminium have made it popular material for many architectural details for many architectural details such as store fronts, window frames, and exterior wall claddings. It can be made into extrusions. Detail elements such as handrails and hardware are often made of aluminium, which will develop a gray oxide surface unless finished by anodizing. Anodizing can produce a colour tone while preserving the surface glitter of aluminium.

4. Brass and Bronze - Nonferrous alloys (brass and bronze) are much used in decorative detail in historic design. Brass has a yellow gleam that makes it popular material for hardware and trim. Bronze has a deeper brown metallic colour.

5. Copper – The special orangey metallic colour of copper is well known for its decorative possibilities. Copper must be protected with a lacquer coating if it is not to turn a green oxide colour.

5. How do I select the right material for interiors?

FUNCTIONAL CRITERIA

PRIMARY – Suitability to basic utilitarian purpose

SECONDARY – Durability, Ease of maintenance, Resistance to damage, Safety

AESTHETIC CRITERIA

Availability of colors, textures, possible patterns & visual suitability

ECONOMIC CRITERIA

Installation cost, Lifetime cost for maintenance, cleaning, repair and future replacement.