

Australian Standard™

**Guide to the properties of paints for  
buildings**

**Part 0: General information on the  
specification, purchasing and testing of  
paints**



This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee CH-003, Paints and Related Materials. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 6 March 2006.  
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The following are represented on Committee CH-003:

**AUSTROADS**

Australian Paint Approval Scheme  
Australian Paint Manufacturers Federation  
Master Painters Australia  
National Association of Testing Authorities Australia  
Surface Coatings Association Australia  
Telstra Corporation  
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## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Australian members of the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee CH-003, Paints and Related Materials to augment the range of Standards dealing with paints for buildings. After consultation with stakeholders in both countries, Standards Australia and Standards New Zealand decided to develop this Standard as an Australian, rather than an Australian/New Zealand Standard.

This Standard supersedes AS 3730.0—1992, *Guide to the properties of paints for buildings, Part 0: General information on the specification, purchasing and testing of paints*.

The AS 3730 series has been prepared as guides to the range of frequently used paints for buildings which are air-dried and generally applied on-site. These guides include features of each product type and typical product characteristics. Typical product characteristics are to be taken as a guide only and are not mandatory. Because a product is used as part only of an overall painting system, the AS 3730 guides should not be used as a substitute for a detailed painting specification from the manufacturer, based on AS/NZS 2311:2000 *The painting of buildings*. Successful specifications are based on the proven performance of the total paint system, and not on the characteristics of individual paint products in isolation.

This Part provides general information not covered in individual guides for paint specifications for buildings in the AS 3730 series.

The terms ‘normative’ and ‘informative’ have been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which they apply. A ‘normative’ appendix is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an ‘informative’ appendix is only for information and guidance.

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## STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

### Australian Standard Guide to the properties of paints for buildings

#### Part 0: General information on the specification, purchasing and testing of paints

##### 1 SCOPE

This Standard provides information generally applicable to the specification of paints intended for decorative, and to a lesser extent, protective purposes on domestic, public and commercial buildings. It refers to the difficulties involved in setting specifications for paints that are intended for a wide range of uses.

##### 2 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

A list of documents referred to in this Standard is given in Appendix A.

##### 3 DIFFICULTIES IN SPECIFICATION

Paints for buildings are used by a very wide section of the community, e.g., the building industry, the public service, painting contractors and individuals. These different sectors of the market emphasize different criteria for product suitability, e.g., home owners are concerned mainly with durability, architects with colour and texture, and painters with ease of application.

As the emphasis on product characteristics is so varied, Standards which set minimum or maximum values for durability, opacity and non-volatile content by volume are not appropriate for all these fields of use, and therefore tend to be written for the informed user.

To any user, durability and minimum number of paint coats required should be of paramount importance. Maximum protection of the substrate at minimum long-term cost is considered to be the prime objective in painting and should be the subject of definite, verifiable requirements in Standards for building paints. Manufacturers' experience has shown that the contributions made by colour and volume solids components to the performance of a product cannot be isolated from other important characteristics such as hiding power, application properties, durability and finish. A paint can only be regarded as a mixture of components so closely integrated in the formulation that no one characteristic can be altered without having a measurable effect on others. Because of these considerations colour is of major importance when specifying paints for buildings.

##### 4 THE SPECIFICATION OF 'VOLUME SOLIDS'

Paint usually comprises a semi-solid or solid material dispersed or dissolved in a liquid allowing the product to be readily applied to a surface or substrate. Application properties, performance requirements and cost are affected by the volume of solids.

Theoretically, the use of a paint with half the volume solids content of another would require the use of twice the quantity of paint for a given area and dry film thickness.

Volume solids can be determined either theoretically or experimentally.