

BUILDING MATERIALS

To: kelly.nolan@sunnymail.net
From: c.baxter@baxterarchitecture.net
Subject: Materials

Hello Ms. Nolan,

Thank you for your interest in our services. Here is some information about the materials we use.

Wall surfaces We offer the best **drywall** available. We create a variety of textures with our versatile **plaster**.

Wall interiors Behind your walls, you will find a frame of sturdy **timber**. Also, we use strong **fiberglass** for plumbing and ducts. Thick **rubber** hoses and gaskets keep you safe from leaks.

Windows We recommend traditional **glass** to most homeowners, but we also offer transparent **plastics** that are less expensive.

Floors We have a wide selection of floor **tiles**. Do you want something fancy? Go with **marble** for your entryway or staircase.

Fixtures We install beautiful kitchen and bathroom fixtures made from fine **porcelain**.

Vocabulary

③ Match the words (1-5) with the definitions (A-E).

- 1 _ glass 3 _ drywall 5 _ porcelain
2 _ marble 4 _ rubber

- A a delicate building material made from clay
B a polished stone that is used as a building material
C a flexible material made from natural substances and chemicals
D a material made with paper and plaster
E a transparent substance used in windows



Building with the Times

Many designers prefer traditional building materials. They choose wood and metal instead of plastics. This was once reasonable, since early plastics were often **brittle**. However, today's technology makes plastics both **durable** and **flexible**. A wise architect understands the benefits of building with plastics.

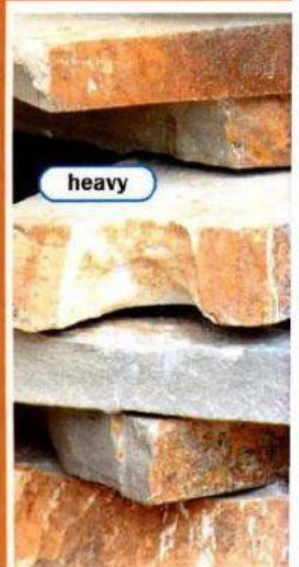
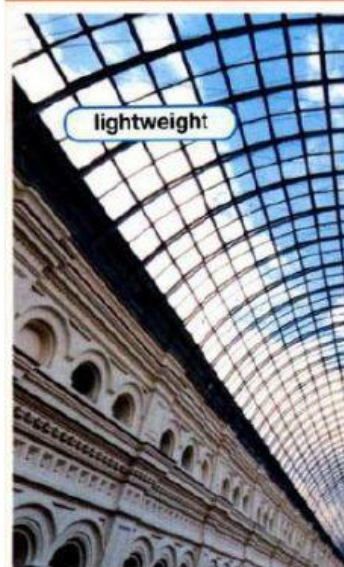
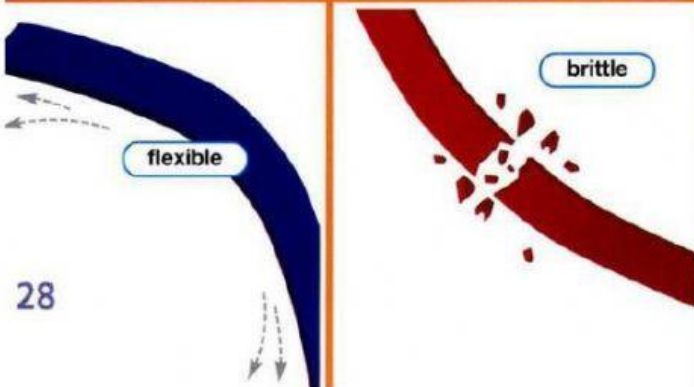
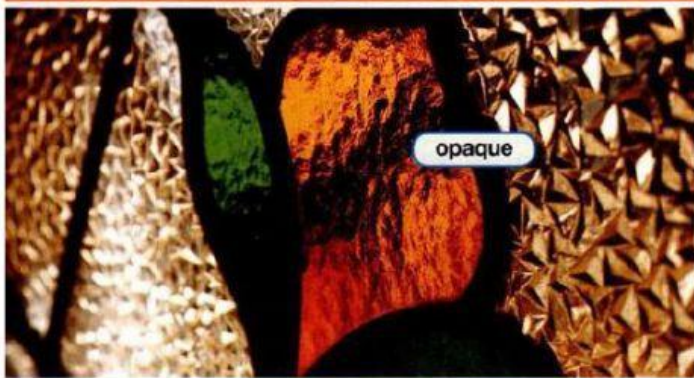
Some plastics are **opaque** and others are **transparent**. That means some can be used to construct walls and others can be used to make windows. Plastics also vary in **hardness**. **Rigid** plastics create strong, solid structures. More **elastic** products make excellent insulators and sealants.

Plastics are also easy to work with because they are often **lightweight**. However, they are often stronger than many other **heavy** materials.

Reading

2 Read the article. Then, choose the correct answers.

- What is the article mainly about?
 - advantages of building with new types of building materials
 - methods of building with traditional building materials
 - processes for manufacturing different building materials
 - available building materials from a company
- Which of the following is NOT a feature of plastics?
 - They come in different degrees of hardness.
 - They are made into flexible sealants.
 - They can be used to create windows.
 - They are usually heavier than other building materials.
- According to the article, what is true about older plastics?
 - They were sometimes brittle.
 - They were more flexible than today's plastics.
 - They were usually transparent.
 - They were more popular than wood and metal.



1) Read the email. Then, mark the following statements as true (T) or false (F).

- 1 _ The company uses one type of plaster to create different textures. _____
- 2 _ The email recommends plastic windows instead of glass. _____
- 3 _ The email suggests using porcelain for fancy floors. _____

2) Fill in the blanks with the correct words from the word bank.

Tiles fiberglass timber plastic plaster

- 1 _____ is made from strands of glass, but it is not transparent.
- 2 The _____ on the bathroom floor are several different colors.
- 3 Cheap windows are sometimes made from transparent _____.
- 4 The frame of the house is made of strong _____.
- 5 _____ is a very common material that is used for covering walls.

4) Match the words (1-6) with the definitions (A-F).

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 1 Rigid | A Having a great weight |
| 2 Heavy | B Not able to be seen through |
| 3 Elastic | C Maintaining a form and not stretching easily |
| 4 Opaque | D Not easily broken |
| 5 Durable | E The quality of how firm or solid something is. |
| 6 Hardness | F Able to stretch easily |

5) Read the sentences and choose the correct words.

- 1 The wall was durable / brittle, so it cracked easily.
- 2 The architect installed a(n) opaque / transparent panel to let in more light.
- 3 The flexible / rigid sealant can be squeezed into small spaces.
- 4 The door is heavy / lightweight, so one person can easily carry it.