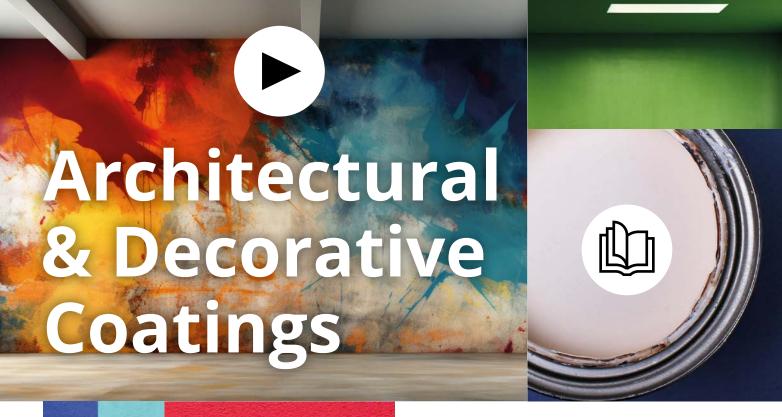
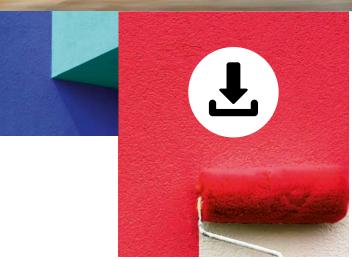
EUROPEAN

COATINGS tech report





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MULTIMEDIA CONTENT



FUNDAMENTALS

Basic principles of architectural coatings

06

Introduction of polymer dispersions and discussion of the composits of water-based coatings formulation. By Roland Baumstark and Roelof Balk

BOOK EXCERPT: Water-based Acrylic Dispersions

DEEP INSIGHT | EMULSION BINDERS

VAE copolymer emulsions in latex paints

30

Characteristics of formulations for interior applications. By Artur Palasz, Ph.D. | **Spektrochem**

PLUS

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- VIDEO: Durable matte: Film-forming binder technology to drive performance in low sheen paints, by Dr. Partha Majumdar, Dow Chemical
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DEEP INSIGHT | BIO-BASED BINDERS

Greener decorative paints

36

Design the phases carefully for better results than fossil-fuel based binders.

By Willem Jan Soer, Maud Kastelijn and Tijs Nabuurs |

DSM Resins and Functional Materials

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DEEP INSIGHT | POWDER BINDERS

Look - no biocides

42

Dispersible polymer powder binders for wall paints. By Dr Stefan Baueregger and Dr Lada Bemert

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DEEP INSIGHT | SILICONE RESINS

Film boosting benefits

48

Hydrophobic silicone resin for high-performance water-borne

By Ping Jiang, Paula Cousino, Ning Lu, Antonio Chaves

Momentive Performance Materials

PLUS

- VIDEO: Highly branched vinyl ester-based emulsions, by Ludivine Augry, Hexion Research Belgium
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- VIDEO: New binder for water-borne consolidating primers for masonry, by Christophe Baude, Synthomer
- VIDEO: Protecting your walls novel solutions for interior & exterior wall paints, by Oliver Peters, Evonik



DEEP INSIGHT | ADDITIVES

Keeping up appearances

56

A green, zero-VOC, clay-based additive reduces the growth of algae, thereby thwarting coating degradation.

By Julija Karasa | **University of Latvia**; Solvita Kostjukova, Juris Kostjukovs, and Davids Stebelis | **ALINA**; leva Putna-Nımane |

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- VIDEO: Undesired green Microbiological Growth on Facades, by Dr Christoph Walter, German Paint and Printing Ink Association (VdL)

PRODUCT OVERVIEW | BIOCIDES

Stay clean

62

Different acting film and in-can preservative additives for different applications summarised in tabular view.







DEEP INSIGHT | DIGITAL ASSISTANT

Counting Craters

64

A digital assistant for quantifying coating defects.

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MARKET INSIGHT | EUROPE

Tough times

70

An overview of the European paints and coatings market. By Douglas Bohn | Orr and Boss Consulting

MARKET INSIGHT | GLOBAL

A mixed picture for architectural coatings

73

Solid growth in Asia-Pacific and Middle East & Africa expected, while Europe will show slowest growth. By José Bottino | IRL

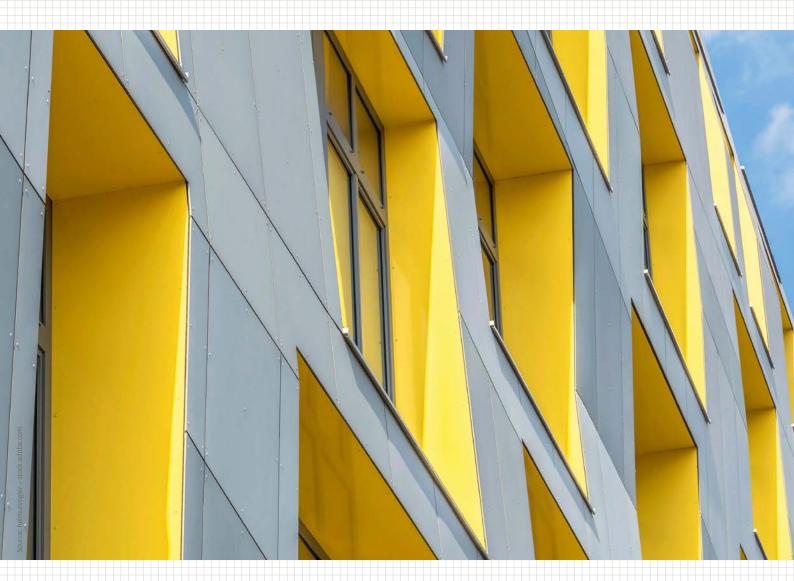
FACTS IN FIVE

German paint market	29
Italian coatings market	55
The U.S. paint and	
coatings market	6 ⁻



BASIC PRINCIPLES OF ARCHITECTURAL COATINGS

Water-based polyacrylates, as emulsion binders, dispersing resins or thickening polymers, are nowadays impossible to do without as raw materials in the paint and coatings industry. In this article by Roland Baumstark and Roelof Balk you will learn the basics of polymer and emulsion dispersions and how to formulate water-borne architectural coatings.



Introduction and 1 basic principles

Architectural coatings and binders 1.1

Architectural coatings have a dual function: on the one hand, they make a significant contribution to the aesthetics of the building or the structural components, for instance by colouring or accentuating their structure. On the other one they protect the building material against external influences, such as moisture, sunlight, or mechanical or chemical damage.

The majority of water-based architectural coatings are complex mixtures of a wide variety of chemical components, as shown by the following compilation:

Main components

- Water
- Binders
- **Pigments**
- **Fillers**

Additives/auxiliaries

- Dispersants and wetting agents
- Thickeners/rheology modifiers
- Defoamers
- Preservatives/biocides
- Solvents/film-forming auxiliaries

It is not uncommon for aqueous architectural coatings to contain between 10 and 20 different ingredients.

The function of the binder is to give the coating the necessary cohesion, durability, weathering stability, good mechanical properties such as flexibility or hardness, and to give the paint its advantageous processing properties. The binder embeds the colouring pigments and fillers in a stable matrix and joins them to the substrate. This distinguishes the finished coating from, say, classroom chalk, which is based on pressed chalk, acts without a binder and is therefore easily washed off.

Besides the pure inorganic material water-glass, which has already been in use for a long time in silicate systems, today the binders used for water-based architectural coatings are predominantly polymer dispersions.

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