

Material Properties

Strength	The ability of a material to resist an applied force
Tensile Strength	The maximum pulling force a material can withstand before failure
Yield Strength	The amount of stress at which the material will reach plasticity
Ultimate Tensile Strength (UTS)	The amount of stress at which a material breaks
Compressive Strength	The resistance of a material under a pushing force
Ductility	The amount that a material can be stretched while being deformed
Malleability	The ability of a material to be deformed without breaking
Hardness	The ability of a material to resist wear and abrasion
Toughness	The ability of a material to withstand an impact without breaking
Brittleness	The potential for a material to shatter when experiences an impact
Stiffness	The ability of a material to resist bending
Elasticity	The ability of a material to return to its original shape when the load upon its removed
Plasticity	When you stretch a material and it doesn't return to its original shape once the force is removed

Calculations

Stress	The force per unit area of a material- N/mm^2
Stress Equation	Stress= force/cross sectional area
Stress Symbol	$\sigma = F/A$
Stress Equation	
Strain	The ratio of an amount a material is extended to its original length
Strain Equation	Strain= Change in length/Original length
Strain Symbol	$\epsilon = \Delta l/l$
Strain Equation	
Young's Modulus	The measure of how much force is needed to stretch or compress a substance- N/mm^2
Young's Equation	Young's Modulus= Stress/Strain
Young's Symbol	$E = \sigma/\epsilon$
Young's Equation	
Factor of Safety	How much stronger the product is than it needs to be for expected loading
FoS Equation	FoS= Yield Stress/Load Stress
FoS Symbol	FoS= σ_y/σ_L
FoS Equation	

Metals and Alloys

Ferrous Metals	Contains iron Generally tougher and stronger They are magnetic
Non-Ferrous Metals	Doesn't contain iron Malleable and ductile They are not magnetic
Alloys	Made from two or more base metals to improve properties

Ferrous Metals

Metals and Alloys (cont)

Cast Iron	3-3.5% Carbon Cheap, rusts easily, hard, good compressive strength Anvils, vices
Low Carbon Steel	Less than 0.3% Carbon Lower strength, tough, cheap Nails, Car bodies
High Carbon Steel	0.8-1.4% Carbon Strong and tough Difficult to form Saw blades, hammers
Stainless Steel	At least 11.5% Chromium Strong, hard, expensive Difficult to machine Good corrosion resistance Cutlery

Non-Ferrous Metals

Aluminium and its alloys	Light, soft, ductile, malleable Good conductor of heat and electricity Corrosion-resistant Aircraft bodies, foil, saucepans
Copper	Tough, malleable Good conductor of heat and electricity Easily Joined Wires, printed circuits
Brass	65% Copper and 35% Zinc Casts well, easily joined Castings, boat fittings
Bronze	90% Copper and 10% Tin Tough and hardwearing Bearings, coins, water and steam valves

Metals and Alloys (cont)

Lead Very soft, low m.p., heavy common metal
Roof coverings

Zinc Poor strength-weight ratio, low m.p.
Coating steel

Polymers

Polymers A plastic

Thermoplastic Can be reshaped when heated
Polymer

Thermosetting Cannot be reshaped when heated
Polymer

Thermoplastic

ABS Strong and rigid Toys
Keyboard

Acrylic Transparent, Plastic
hard wearing Windows
Bath tubs

Nylon Ductile, durable Gear wheels

Polycarbonate High Strength Safety glasses
Heat resistant DVDs

Polystyrene Tough, Good Packaging,
impact strength Foam cups

Thermosetting

Epoxy Stiff and brittle Circuit boards,
Temperature, Electrical
Chemical and insulator
Electrical
resistance

Polyester Cheap, good Suitcases
Resin strength and
stiffness

Melamine Resistant to Laminate
Resin some chemicals coverings for
and stains kitchen
worktops

Polyurethane Hard with high Hoses,
strength surface
Flexible and coatings and
tough sealants
Low thermal
conductivity

Polymers (cont)

Vulcanised Elastic, High Tyres, shoe
Rubber tensile strength, sales,
resistant to bouncing
abrasion balls

Composites, Ceramics & Timber

Composites A type of material made by
combining two or more
different types of materials

Reinforcement The particles of fibres within
a composite matrix that
increases its strength

CRP: Extremely high Racing
Carbon fibres in strength, Low bicycles
an epoxy resin density, Helmets
matrix Expensive

GRP: High strength, Canoes
Glass fibres in a Good chemical Water
polyester resin resistance, tanks
matrix Lower cost than
CRP

Plywood: Smooth surface Furniture
Layers of wood and good Boat
bonded at 90° strength, May building
to each other, be covered in
using adhesive veneer
matrix

