



3M
Glass Bubbles

3M™ Glass Bubbles

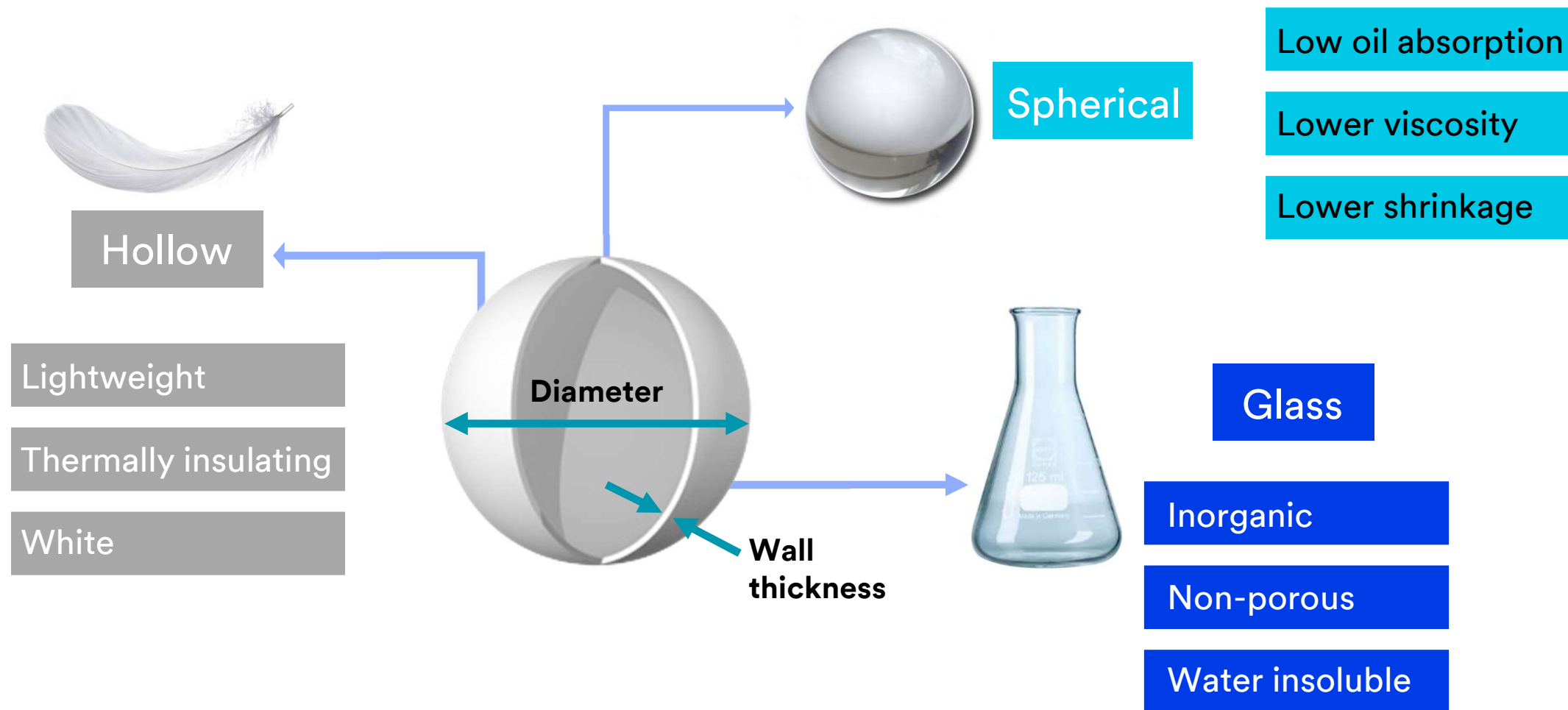
Applications in Paints and Coatings

Ing. Stepan Krticka

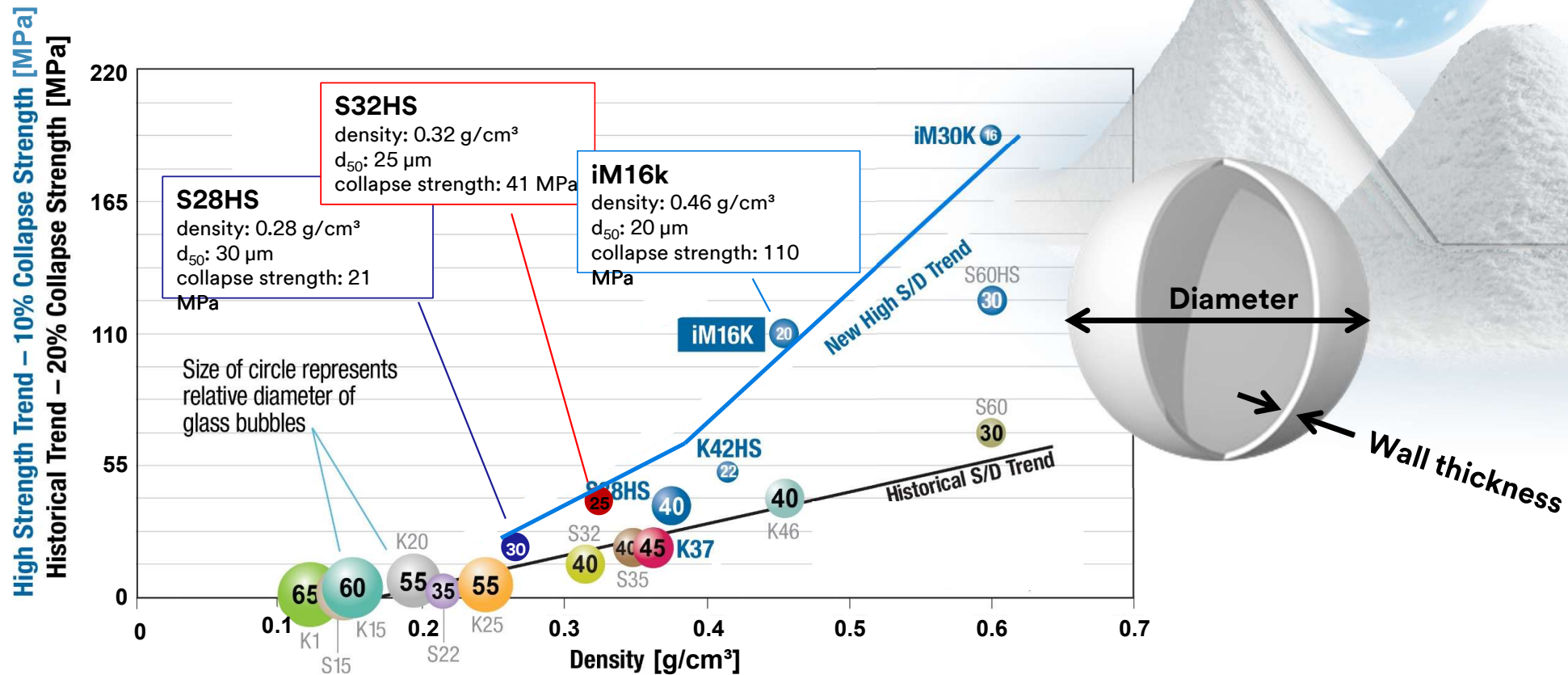
Hungarocoat 2022

November 2022

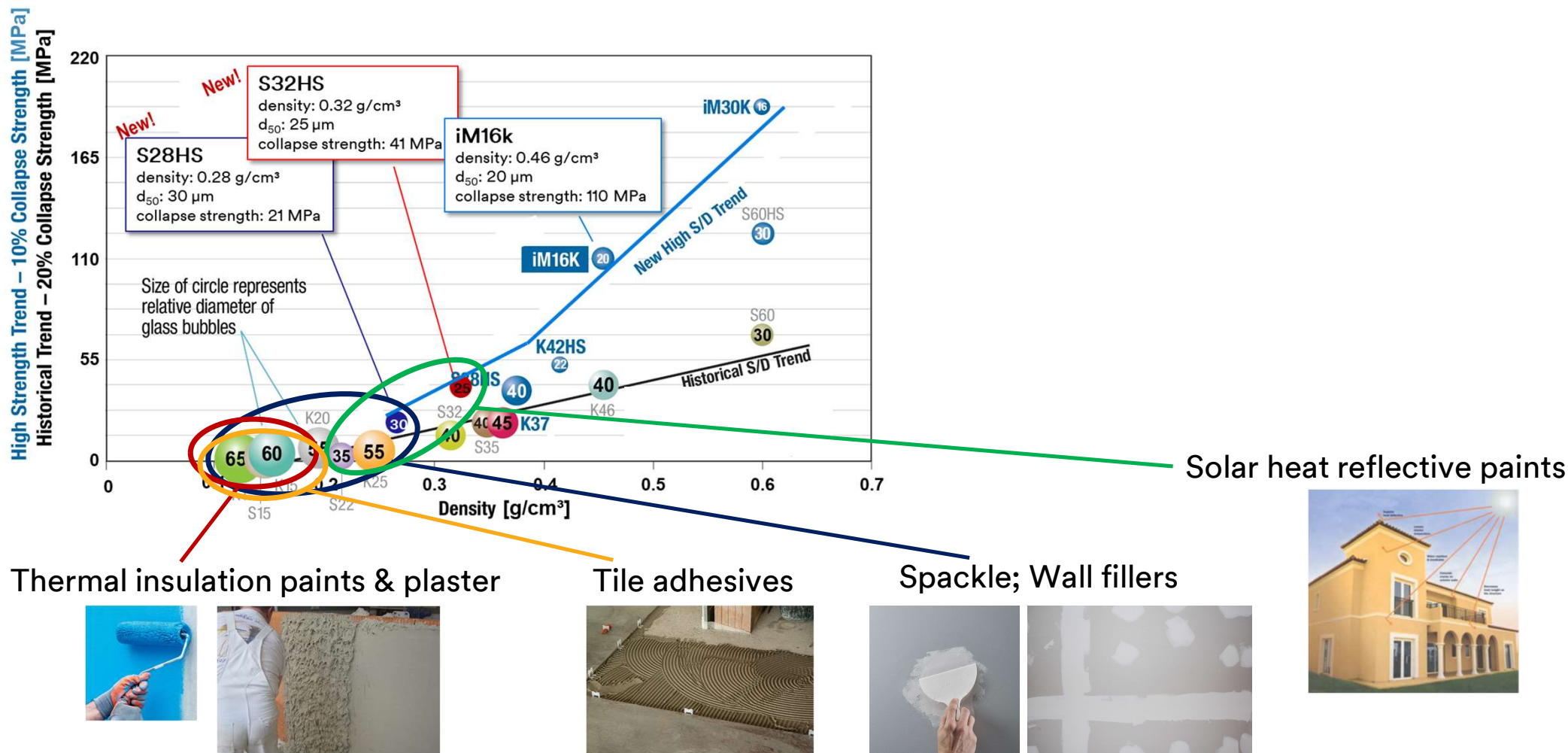
Make it all-round – 3M™ Glass Bubbles



3M™ Glass Bubbles - Portfolio Overview



3M™ Glass Bubbles in Paints & Coatings



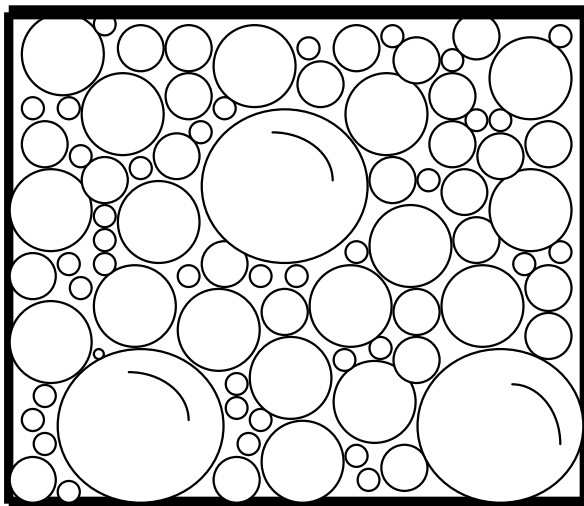
Formulating with 3M™ Glass Bubbles

Always think in terms of volume loading

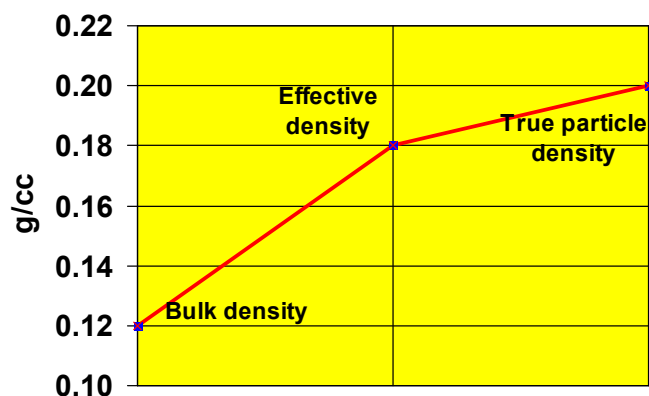


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3M™ Glass Bubbles – Definition of Density



Glass Bubbles K20



- Bulk density
Ratio of Glass Bubble weight to full container volume, included air-filled spaces
- Effective density
Ratio of Glass Bubble weight to bubble volume including certain amount of trapped air when mixed in a liquid (also called “liquid displacement”)
- **True particle density**
Ratio of Glass Bubble weight to true particle volume when Glass Bubbles are fully surrounded by a gas (*measured with a gas pycnometer*).

**Specification for Glass Bubbles
is true particle density!**



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Glass Bubbles

3M™ Glass Bubbles

Hollow Glass Microspheres

***Applications in
Interior Paints***

3M™ Glass Bubbles in Paints

Anti-Condensation Paint



Advantages/Benefits:

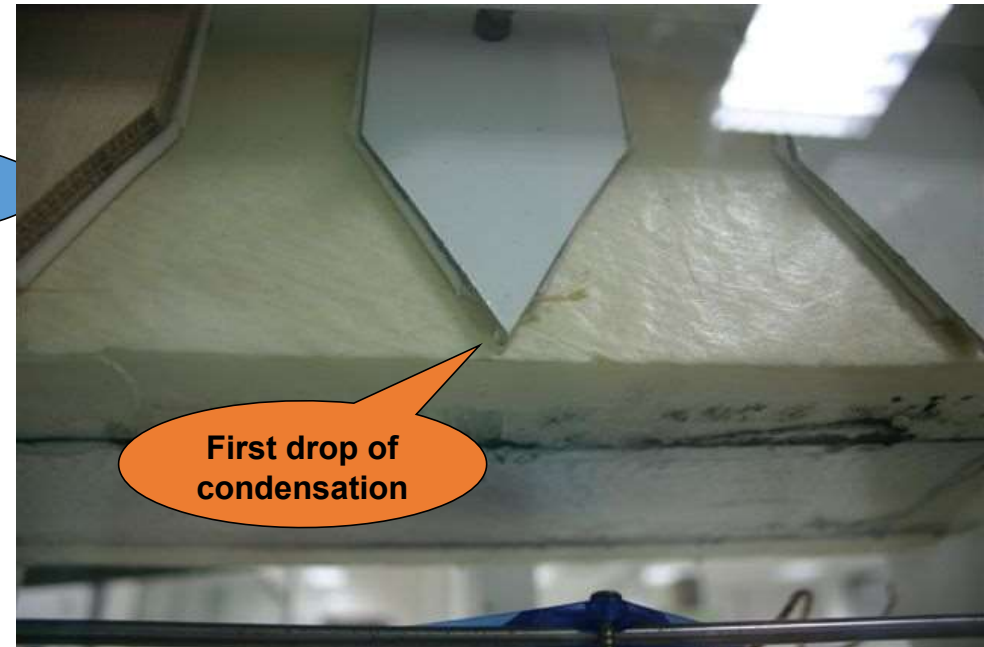
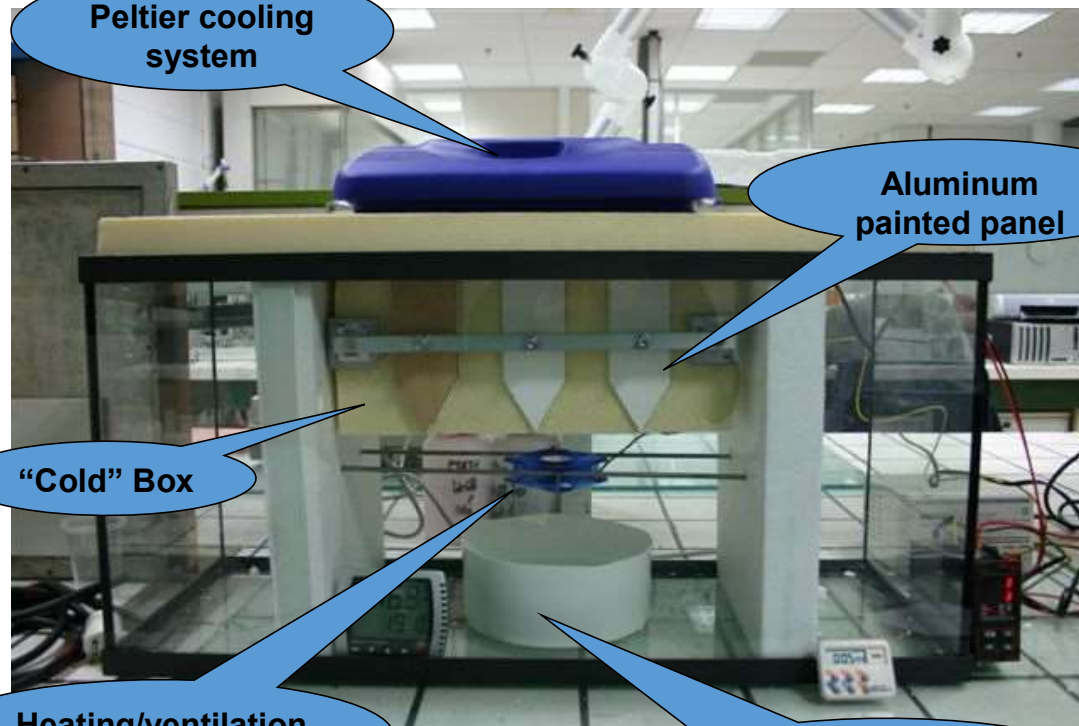
- ✓ Retard condensation
- ✓ Warm touch
- ✓ Low density
- ✓ Low sag
- ✓ Low shrink
- ✓ Silky decorative aspect
- ✓ Easy to brush on, to roll on

Recommended microspheres: K1 – K15 - K20 – S22 – K25

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3M™ Glass Bubbles in Paints

Anti-Condensation Paint

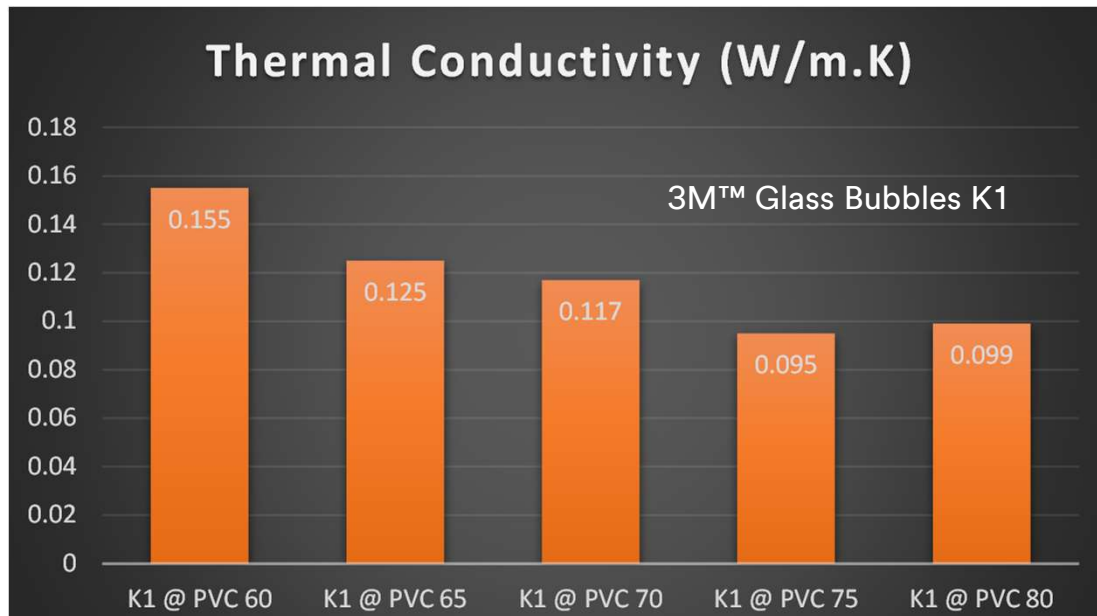


Standard Paint: 24 min

Anti-Condensation Paint: 41 min

3M™ Glass Bubbles in Paints

Thermal Insulation / Low Effusivity Comfort Paint



Thermal conductivity in dependence of pigment volume concentration (PVC), 10% TiO₂



$$e = \sqrt{\lambda \cdot \rho \cdot c_p}$$

e: effusivity
λ: thermal conductivity
ρ: density
c_p: heat capacity

Effusivity is a measure of a materials ability to exchange thermal energy with its surroundings

$$T_m = T_1 + (T_2 - T_1) \frac{e_2}{(e_2 + e_1)}$$

3M™ Glass Bubbles in Paints

Thermal Insulation / Low Effusivity Comfort Paint



Advantages/Benefits:

- ✓ Reduced thermal conductivity
- ✓ Help eliminate thermal “bridges”
- ✓ Higher wall temperature
- ✓ Warm feel (low effusivity e)

$$e = \sqrt{\lambda \cdot \rho \cdot c_p}$$

e : effusivity
 λ : thermal conductivity
 ρ : density
 c_p : heat capacity

Effusivity is a measure of a materials ability to exchange thermal energy with its surroundings

$$T_m = T_1 + (T_2 - T_1) \frac{e_2}{(e_2 + e_1)}$$

Recommended microspheres: K1 – K15 – K20 – S22 – K25 – S28HS



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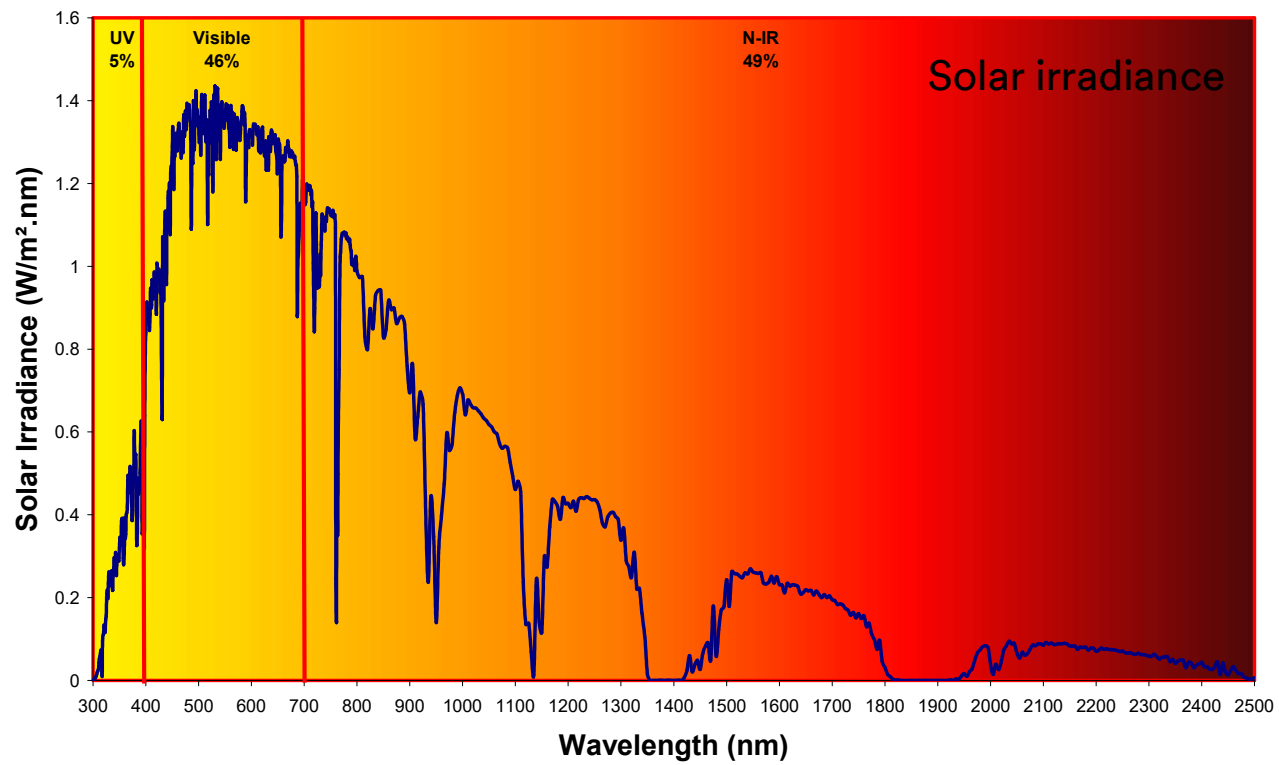
Glass Bubbles

3M™ Glass Bubbles

Hollow Glass Microspheres

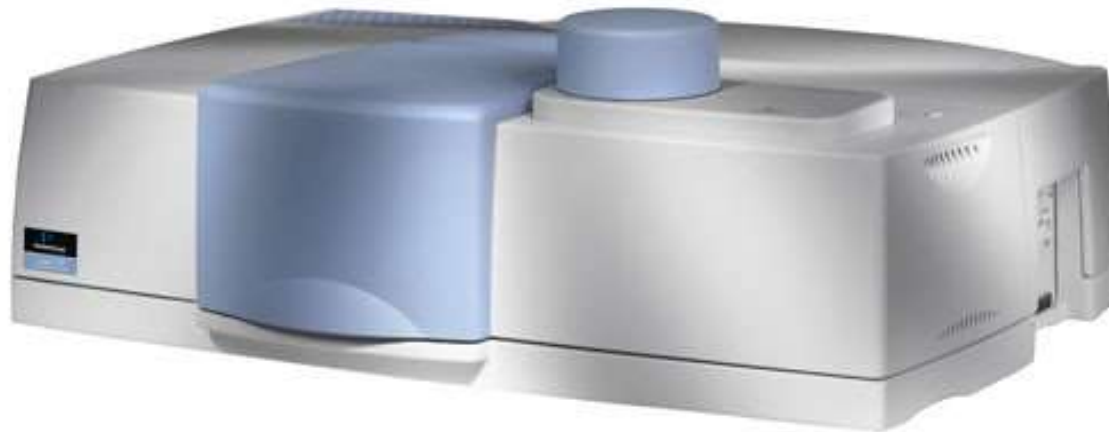
***Applications in
Exterior Paints***

Solar Heat Reflective Paint



Solar Heat Reflective Paint

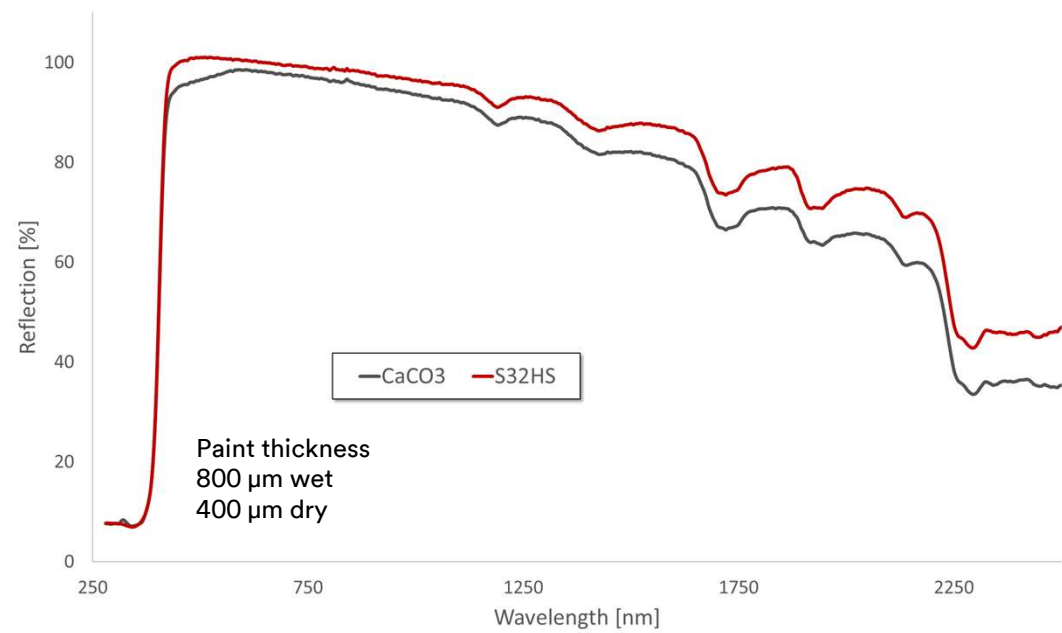
Test Equipment



Spectrophotometer Perkin-Elmer 950 UV – Visible - N-IR + Integrated Sphere

Solar Heat Reflective Paint

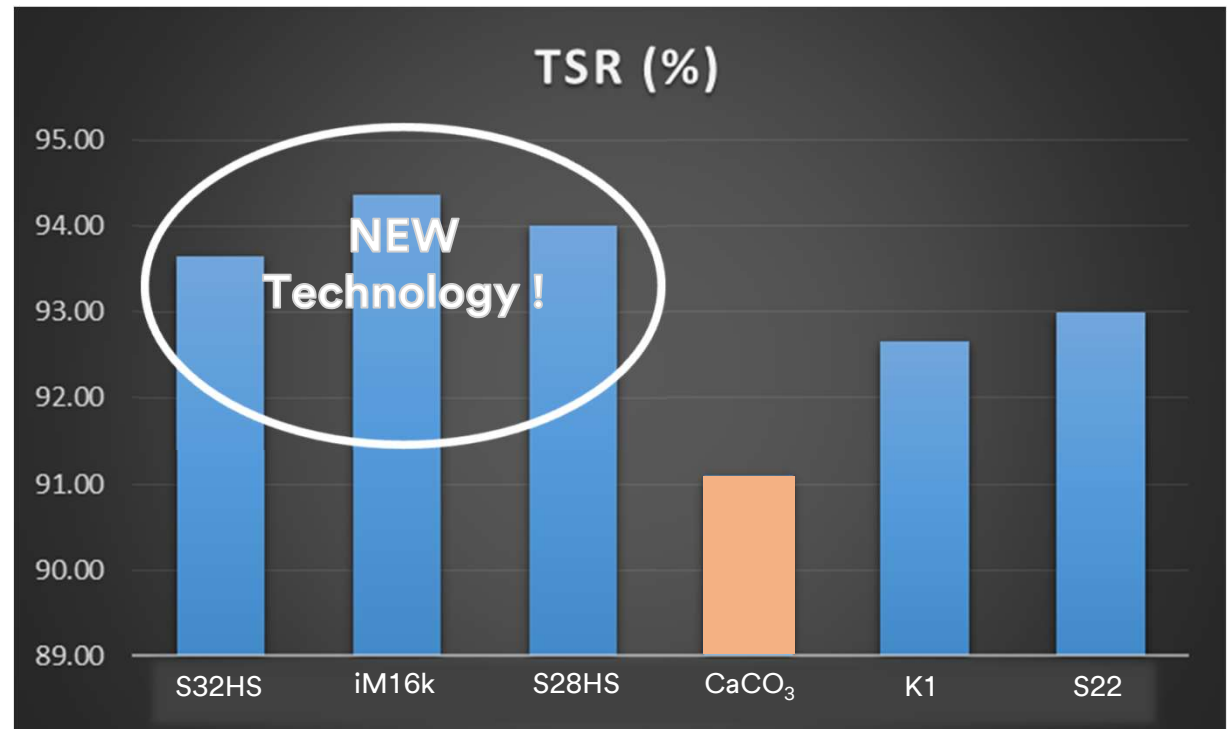
UV-Vis-NIR Photospectrometry



Sample	TSR (%)	UV (%)	Visible (%)	IR (%)
S32HS	93.65	13.89	99.22	93.81
iM16K	94.37	13.67	99.98	94.56
S28HS	94.01	13.72	99.77	94.04
CaCO3	91.09	13.47	97.03	90.80
K1	92.65	14.35	98.78	92.23
S22	93.00	13.92	98.70	92.99

Solar Heat Reflective Paint

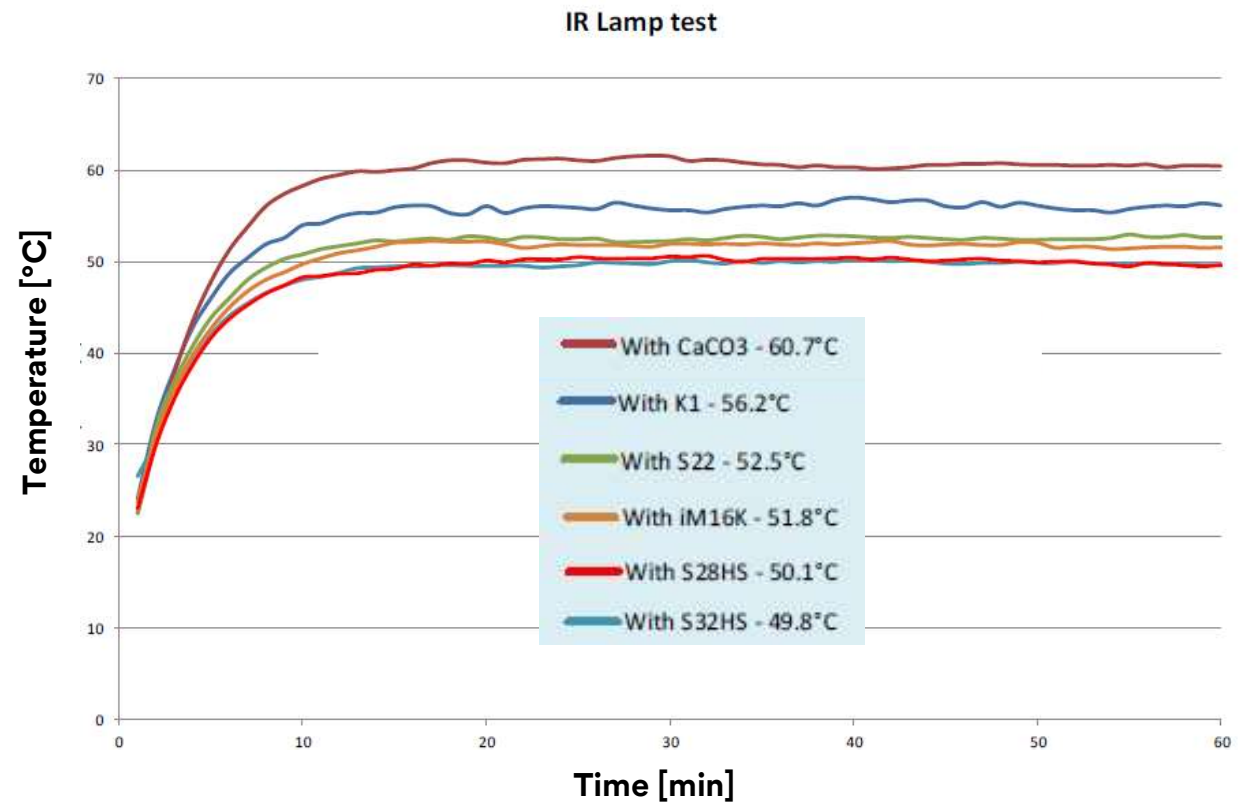
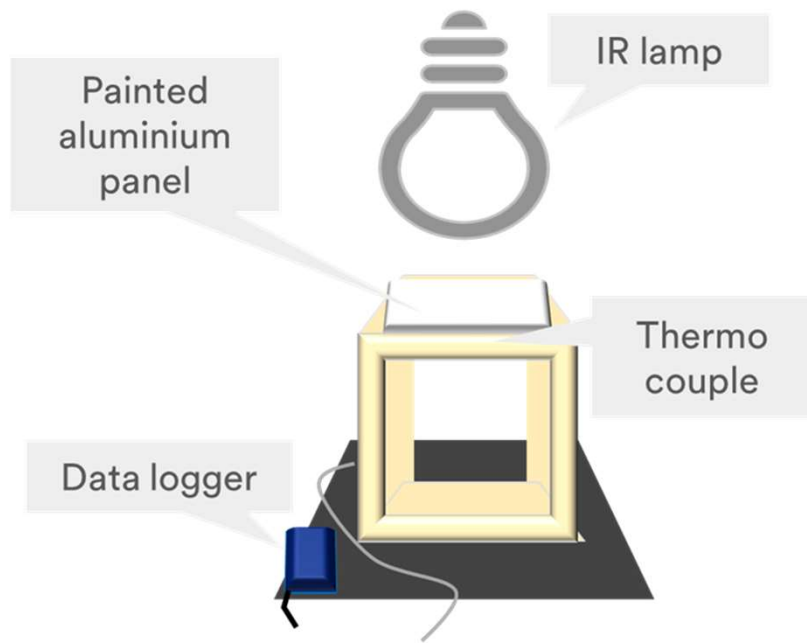
Total Solar Reflectance



Total solar reflectance (TSR) for paints with various Glass Bubble grades in comparison to CaCO₃

Solar Heat Reflective Paint

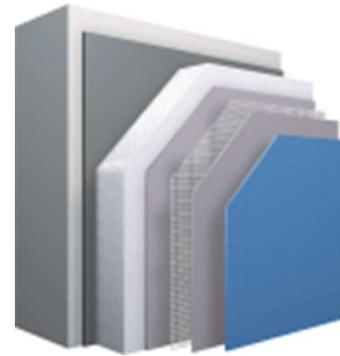
Backside temperature vs time



3M™ Glass Bubbles in Solar Heat Reflective Paint

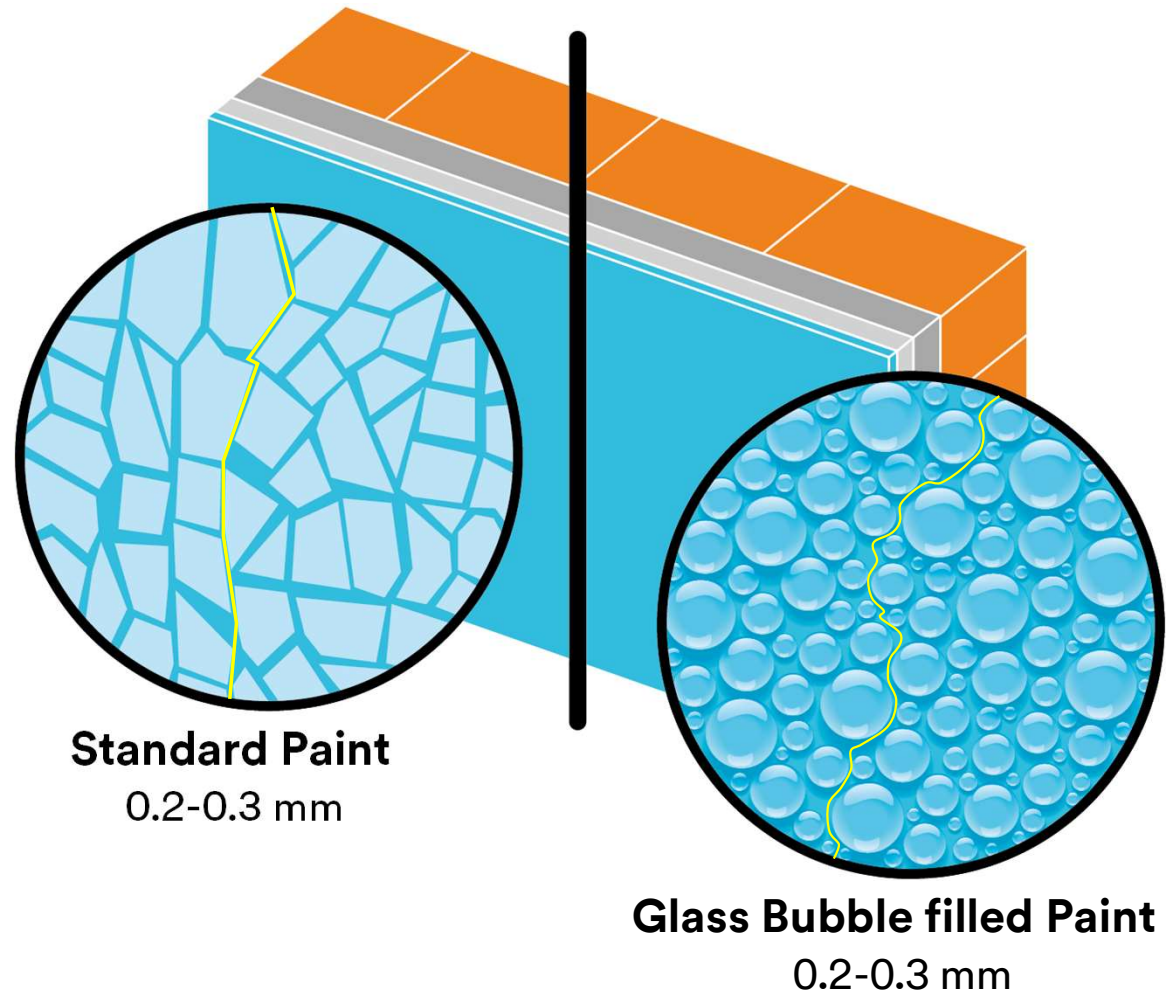
Potential Applications

- Façade paint
- Roof coatings
- External wall insulation systems
- Mobile-home, caravans
- Refrigerated storage warehouses
- Refrigerated trucks
- Oil & Gas outdoor storage tanks
- Cryogenic tanks and tankers
- Gel coats for pleasure boat cabins
- Etc.....



Cracks & Modulus

- State of the art buildings (e.g., with insulating masonry) use structural materials with lower modulus
- Façade materials like plaster and paint need lower modulus, too
- Modulus gradient required to avoid cracks



Cracks & Consequences

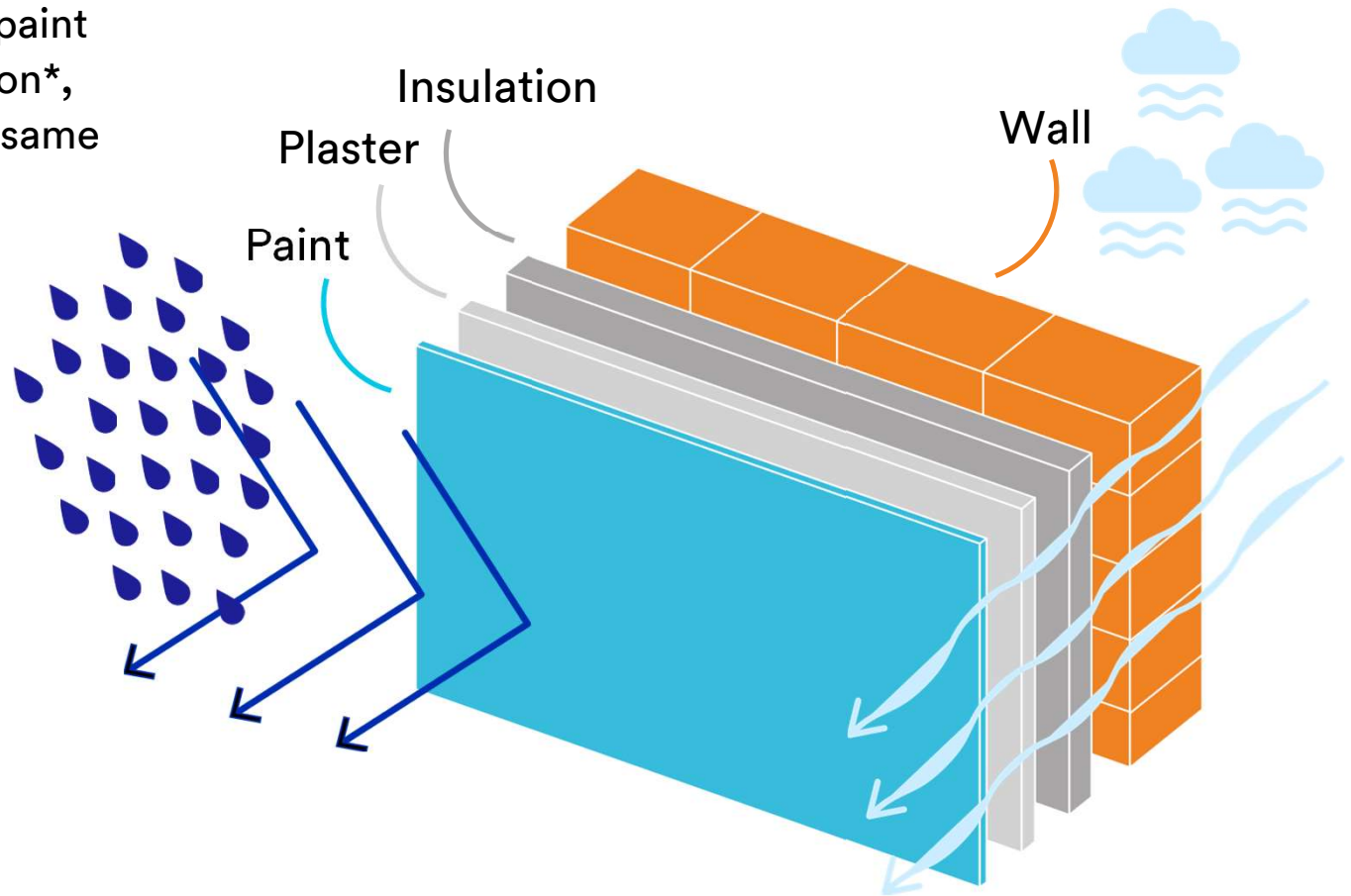
- Cracks facilitate algae growth
- Avoiding formation of micro-cracks is key to protect façades from algae



Moisture Management – “The membrane-principle”

Glass Bubbles can help to formulate a paint with very good water vapor transmission*, and good barrier vs liquid water at the same time

- Protect façades
- Keep masonry and insulation dry
- Preserve the building structure
- Foster healthy living climate



* = low s_d value



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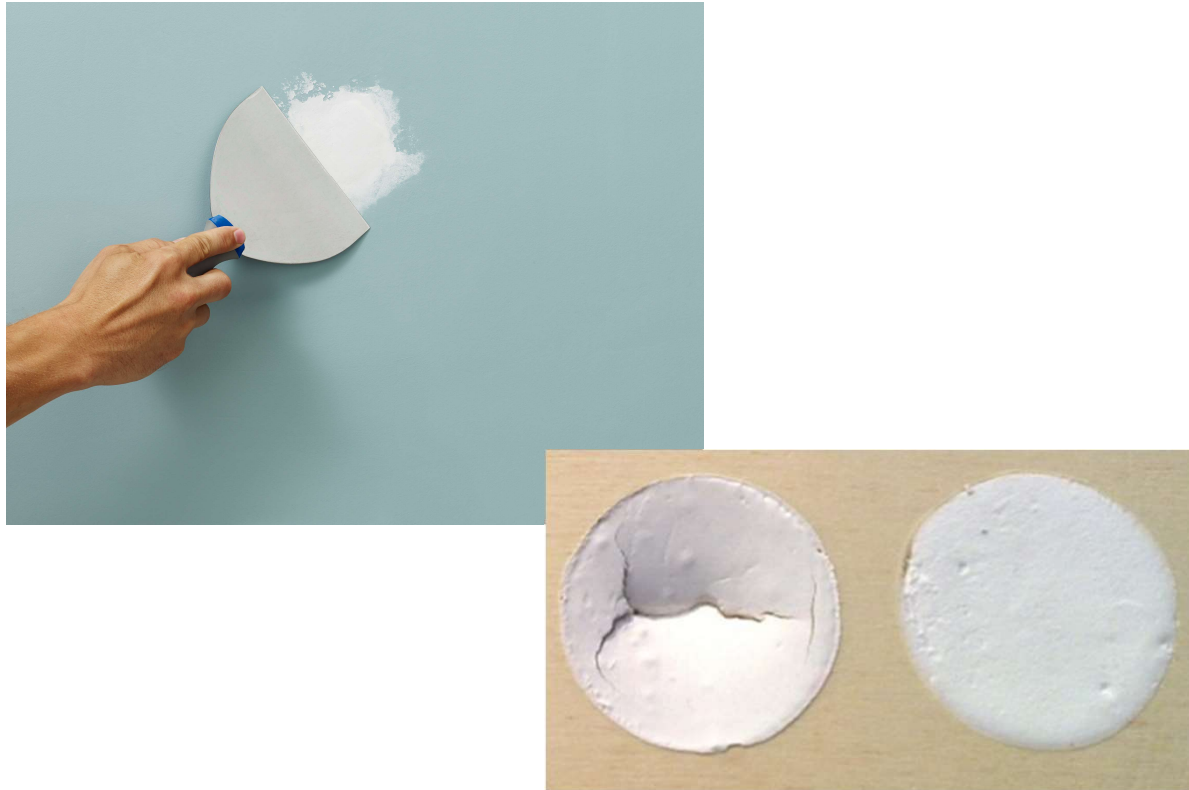
A close-up photograph of a white, textured surface, likely a bag of 3M Glass Bubbles. The red 3M logo is prominently displayed in the upper left, and the words "Glass Bubbles" are printed in black below it. The surface has a fine, granular texture.

3M[™] Glass Bubbles

Hollow Glass Microspheres

***Applications in
Spackles and
Wall Fillers***

3M™ Glass Bubbles in Spackles & Wall Fillers



Advantages/Benefits:

- High opacity
- High filler contents
- Low shrinkage
- No cracks
- Low density
- Low sagging
- Workability
- Sandability
- Nail & screw: no cracks
- Labor cost saving

Recommended microspheres: K1 – K15 – K20 – S22 – S28HS

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3M™ Glass Bubbles in “*Airless Sprayable*” Compounds

New

3M™ Glass Bubbles S28HS

density: 0.28 g/cm³

d₅₀: 30 µm

collapse strength: 21 MPa



Proof of concept

- Wagner PS 3.39 Airless Spraypack
 - Working pressure: 200 bar
- => Superior survival compared to other lightweight fillers like perlite (90% vs. 50%)



Advantages/Benefits

- ✓ High opacity
- ✓ Withstands airless pressure
- ✓ Low shrinkage
- ✓ No cracks
- ✓ Low density
- ✓ Low sagging
- ✓ Workability
- ✓ Sandability
- ✓ Nail & screw: no cracks
- ✓ Labor cost saving

Recommended microspheres: S28HS



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A close-up photograph of a white, textured surface, likely a roll of insulation, with a black border at the top. The red 3M logo and the text 'Glass Bubbles' are printed on the surface.

3M™ Glass Bubbles

Hollow Glass Microspheres

***Applications in
Industrial
Insulation***

3M™ Glass Bubbles in Thermal Protective Coatings

Advantages/Benefits:

- ✓ Personal burn protection
- ✓ Prevent/eliminate CUI (Corrosion Under Insulation)
- ✓ Thermal conductivity as low as 0.10 W/m.K
- ✓ High Solids
- ✓ Greater dry coating thickness
- ✓ Airless sprayable using high strength glass bubbles
- ✓ Reduced shrinkage
- ✓ Reduced VOC



Recommended microspheres: K1 – K15 – K20 – K25 – S28HS

Official Distributor of 3M™ Glass Bubbles in Hungary

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3M™ Glass Bubbles Plant Tilloy, France

3M Science.
Applied to Life.™



**GENDORF Chemical Park, Germany
with 3M™ Specialty Additives Laboratory**

Thank You

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