

Прочитайте, переведите текст,
выпишите названия строительных материалов,
кратко охарактеризуйте каждый (на английском языке)

Modern Building Materials.

Some of the most important building materials are: timber, brick, stone, concrete, metal, plastics and glass.

Timber is provided by different kinds of trees. Timbers used for building purposes are divided into two groups called softwoods and hardwoods. Timber is at present not so much used in building construction.

A brick is best described as a "building unit". It may be made of clay by moulding and baking in kilns, of concrete, of mortar or of a composition of sawdust and other materials. In shape it is a rectangular solid. There exists variety of bricks for different purposes: ordinary, hollow or porous, lightweight, multicolor bricks for decorative purposes, etc.

Sometimes natural stones such as marble, granite, basalt, limestone and sandstone are used for the construction of dams and foundations. Marble, granite and sandstone are widely used for decorative purposes as well, especially with the public buildings.

Plastics are artificial materials used in construction work for a vast number of purposes from the laying of foundation to the final coat of paint. Synthetic resins are the main raw material for plastics. Plastics have some good advantages as they are lighter than metals, not subject to corrosion, and they can be easier machined. Besides, they are inflammable, they can take any color and pattern, and they are good electrical insulators. More over, they possess a high resistance to chemical action.

Laminate is a strong material manufactured from many layers of paper or textile impregnated with thermosetting resins. Laminate has been developed for both inside and outside use. It resists severe weather conditions for more than ten years without serious deformation.

Foamed glass is a high-porosity heat insulating material, available in block made of fine-ground glass and a frothing agent.

Foamed glass is widely used in prefabricated house building, to ensure heat insulation of exterior wall panels, and in industrial construction.