

Designing With Light
Chapter 6

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Angle of Incidence

Diffuse

Diffuser

Opaque

Direct Distribution

Direct Glare

Downlight

The angle between a ray of light striking a surface and a line perpendicular to that surface.

A translucent piece of glass or plastic that shields the light source in a fixture. The light transmitted throughout the diffuser is redirected and scattered.

Describes light leaving a fixture and entering the illuminated space without first bouncing off of any architectural elements such as the ceiling or walls.

A type of ceiling luminaire, usually recessed, where the light is directed downward.

Term describing dispersed light distribution. Refers to the scattering or softening of light.

Describes a material through which light does not pass.

Glare produced by a direct view of light sources. It is often the result of fixtures with inadequate shielding.

Aiming Angle

Glare

General Lighting

Indirect

Interreflection

Reflectance

Reflected Glare

Refractor

The effect of brightness or differences in brightness within the visual field sufficiently high to cause annoyance, discomfort or loss of visual performance.

The angle, measured in degrees, between vertical and the centerline of the beam of light illuminating an object.

A light distribution pattern or luminaire in which all of the light is directed upward to bounce off of the ceiling.

Lighting designed to provide a uniform level of illuminance throughout an area, exclusive of any provision for additional task-specific lighting requirements.

The ratio of light reflected from a surface to the light incident on the surface. Reflectances are often used for lighting calculations.

Describes rays of light bouncing off of multiple surfaces within a room.

A device used to redirect the light output from a source, primarily by bending the waves of light.

Glare resulting from reflections of bright objects on polished or glossy surfaces. Also called Veiling Reflection.

Semi-Direct

Semi-Indirect

Semi-Specular

Specular

Translucent

Transmission

Transparent

Veiling Reflection

A light distribution pattern or luminaire in which 40% or less of the light is directed downward and 60% or more of the light is directed upward.

A light distribution pattern or luminaire in which 60% or more of the light is directed downward and 40% or less of the light is directed upward.

Describes a mirrored or polished surface. The angle of reflection is equal to the angle of incidence. This word describes the finish of the material used in some louvers and reflectors.

A term describing the light reflection characteristics of a material. Light is reflected directionally, with some amount of scatter.

The percentage of light that passes through a translucent or diffusing material.

Describes a material that diffuses light passing through it so that objects cannot be seen clearly through it.

A glare reflection from a specular surface that partially or completely obscures the object being observed. Examples include reflection of a luminaire on a glossy magazine page.

Describes a material with no diffusion of the light passing through it so that objects are clearly seen through it.