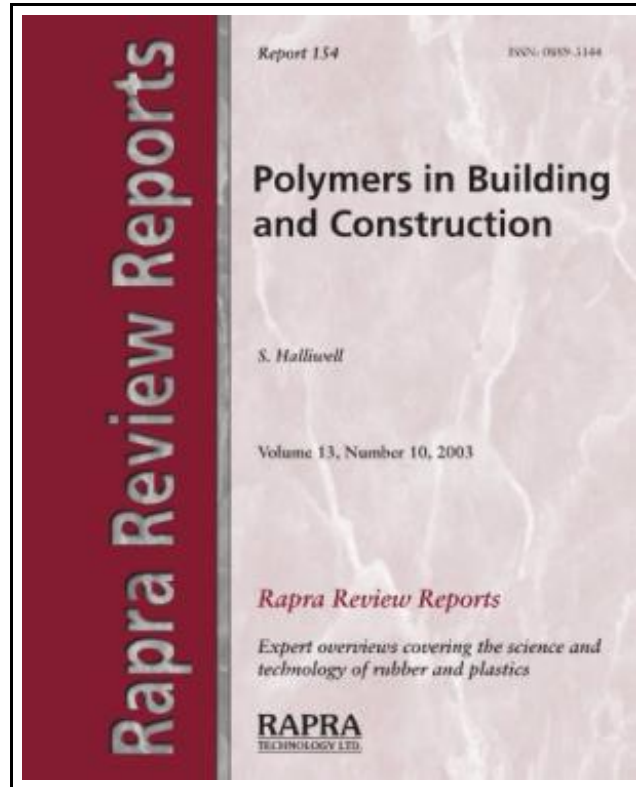


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Smithers Rapra Publishing, United Kingdom, 2002. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 300 x 218 mm. Language: English Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*.Polymers have become increasingly important as engineering materials in the past decade and applications in the construction industry are expanding. In Europe, around 20 percent of plastic consumption is in this industry, i.e., around 5 million tonnes per year. This review outlines the nature, culture and trends in the building and construction industry. Materials used in construction applications must possess critical properties, depending on the exact use. In general the important property requirements are mechanical, weathering, permeability, flammability and thermal conductivity properties. The environmental impact is also important as global concerns are increasing about pollution, depletion of energy sources and re-use or recycling of waste products. Bulk polymers are used in applications such as pipes and conduit, wire and cable, foundations, fittings, roofing, flooring and insulation, The major use of polymers in the European construction sector is in rigid PVC window profiles. Fibre reinforced plastics have recently been introduced for this application and have the advantage over PVC of not requiring additional reinforcement. PVC, phenol-formaldehyde and polyurethane. Structural foams have also been developed from materials such as polyolefins, polycarbonate and ABS. Fibre reinforced polymeric materials are gaining market share from traditional construction materials due to their low weight combined with high strength. Mechanical properties can be tailor-made by careful selection of fibre and direction of reinforcement. Applications include bridge construction, pipes, column reinforcing wraps and reinforcing bars for concrete. They can also offer better fire resistance than most other materials, for example, phenolics are used in firewalls. Concrete is a versatile construction material, but could benefit from improved strength, toughness, ductility and durability. One approach is to develop cement based composites. Polymer mortars and concretes are finding...



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