

CLARK SOLUTIONS

Infrared Thermometers

Technical bulletin: Emissivity

Understanding an object's emissivity, or its characteristic "radiance" is a critical component in the proper handling of infrared measurements. Concisely, emissivity is the ratio of radiation emitted by a surface or blackbody and its theoretical radiation predicted from Planck's law. [W(L,T)=C1/(L^5*(exp(C2/LT)-1)]

A material's surface emissivity is measured by the amount of energy emitted when the surface is directly observed. There are many variables that affect a specific object's emissivity, such as the wavelength of interest, field of view, the geometric shape of the blackbody, and temperature. However, for the purposes and applications of the infrared thermometer user, a comprehensive table showing the emissivity at corresponding temperatures of various surfaces and objects is displayed.

Material(Non-Metals)		Temp degF(degC)	Emissivity
Adobe		68 (20)	0.9
Asbestos			
ii	Board	100 (38)	0.96
ii	Cement	32-392 (0-200)	0.96
ii	Cement, Red	2500 (1371)	0.67
ii	Cement, White	2500 (1371)	0.65
ii	Cloth	199 (93)	0.9
ii	Paper	100-700 (38-371)	0.93
ii	Slate	68 (20)	0.97
ii	Asphalt, pavement	100 (38)	0.93
ii	Asphalt, tar paper	68 (20)	0.93
Basalt		68 (20)	0.72
Brick			
ii	Red, rough	70 (21)	0.93
ii	Gault Cream	2500-5000 (1371-2760)	.26-.30
ii	Fire Clay	2500 (1371)	0.75
ii	Light Buff	1000 (538)	0.8
ii	Lime Clay	2500 (1371)	0.43
ii	Fire Brick	1832 (1000)	.75-.80
ii	Magnesite, Refractory	1832 (1000)	0.38
ii	Grey Brick	2012 (1100)	0.75
ii	Silica, Glazed	2000 (1093)	0.88
ii	Silica, Unglazed	2000 (1093)	0.8
ii	Sandlime	2500-5000 (1371-2760)	.59-.63
Carborundum		1850 (1010)	0.92
Ceramic			
ii	Alumina on Inconel	800-2000 (427-1093)	.69-.45
ii	Earthenware, Glazed	70 (21)	0.9
ii	Earthenware, Matte	70 (21)	0.93
ii	Greens No. 5210-2C	200-750 (93-399)	.89-.82
ii	Coating No. C20A	200-750 (93-399)	.73-.67
ii	Porcelain	72 (22)	0.92
ii	White Al ₂ O ₃	200 (93)	0.9
ii	Zirconia on Inconel	800-2000 (427-1093)	.62-.45
Clay		68 (20)	0.39
ii	Fired	158 (70)	0.91
ii	Shale	68 (20)	0.69
ii	Tiles, Light Red	2500-5000 (1371-2760)	.32-.34
ii	Tiles, Red	2500-5000 (1371-2760)	.40-.51
ii	Tiles, Dark Purple	2500-5000 (1371-2760)	0.78

Concrete			
ii	Rough	32-2000 (0-1093)	0.94
ii	Tiles, Natural	2500-5000 (1371-2760)	.63-.62
ii	Brown	2500-5000 (1371-2760)	.87-.83
ii	Black	2500-5000 (1371-2760)	.94-.91
Cotton Cloth		68 (20)	0.77
Dolomite Lime		68 (20)	0.41
Emery Corundum		176 (80)	0.86
Glass			
ii	Convex D	212 (100)	0.8
ii	Convex D	600 (316)	0.8
ii	Convex D	932 (500)	0.76
ii	Nonex	212 (100)	0.82
ii	Nonex	600 (316)	0.82
ii	Nonex	932 (500)	0.78
ii	Smooth	32-200(0-93)	.92-.94
Granite		70 (21)	0.45
Gravel		100 (38)	0.28
Gypsum		68 (20)	.80-.90
Ice, Smooth		32 (0)	0.97
Ice, Rough		32 (0)	0.98
Lacquer			
ii	Black	200 (93)	0.96
ii	Blue, on Al Foil	100 (38)	0.78
ii	Clear, on Al Foil (2 coats)	200 (93)	.08-.09
ii	Clear, on Bright Cu	200 (93)	0.66
ii	Clear, on Tarnished Cu	200 (93)	0.64
ii	Red, on Al Foil (2 coats)	100 (38)	.60-.74
ii	White	200 (93)	0.95
ii	White, on Al Foil (2 coats)	100 (38)	.69-.88
ii	Yellow, on Al Foil (2 coats)	100 (38)	.57-.79
Lime Mortar		100-500 (38-260)	.90-.92
Limestone		100 (38)	0.95
Marble, White		100 (38)	0.95
ii	Smooth, White	100 (38)	0.56
ii	Polished Grey	100 (38)	0.75
Mica		100 (38)	0.75
Oil on Nickel			
ii	0.001 Film	72 (22)	0.27
ii	0.002 "	72 (22)	0.46
ii	0.005 "	72 (22)	0.72
ii	Thick "	72 (22)	0.82
Oil, Linseed			
ii	On Al Foil, uncoated	250 (121)	0.09
ii	On Al Foil, 1 coat	250 (121)	0.56
ii	On Al Foil, 2 coats	250 (121)	0.51
ii	On Polished Iron, .001 Film	100 (38)	0.22
ii	On Polished Iron, .002 Film	100 (38)	0.45
ii	On Polished Iron, .004 Film	100 (38)	0.65
ii	On Polished Iron, Thick Film	100 (38)	0.83
Paints			
ii	Blue, Cu ₂ O ₃	75 (24)	0.94
ii	Black, CuO	75 (24)	0.96
ii	Green, Cu ₂ O ₃	75 (24)	0.92

ii	Red, Fe ₂ O ₃	75 (24)	0.91
ii	White, Al ₂ O ₃	75 (24)	0.94
ii	White, Y ₂ O ₃	75 (24)	0.9
ii	White, ZnO	75 (24)	0.95
ii	White, MgCO ₃	75 (24)	0.91
ii	White, ZrO ₂	75 (24)	0.95
ii	White, ThO ₂	75 (24)	0.9
ii	White, MgO	75 (24)	0.91
ii	White, PbCO ₃	75 (24)	0.93
ii	Yellow , PbO	75 (24)	0.9
ii	Yellow , PbCrO ₄	75 (24)	0.93
Paints, Aluminium		100 (38)	.27-.67
ii	10% Al	100 (38)	0.52
ii	26% Al	100 (38)	0.3
ii	Dow XP-310	200 (93)	0.22
Paints, Bronze		Low	.34-.80
ii	Gum Varnish (2 coats)	70 (21)	0.53
ii	Gum Varnish (3 coats)	70 (21)	0.5
ii	Cellulose Binder (2 coats)	70 (21)	0.34
Paints, Oil			
ii	All colours	200 (93)	.92-.96
ii	Black	200 (93)	0.92
ii	Black Gloss	70 (21)	0.9
ii	Camouflage Green	125 (52)	0.85
ii	Flat Black	80 (27)	0.88
ii	Flat White	80 (27)	0.91
ii	Grey-Green	70 (21)	0.95
ii	Green	200 (93)	0.95
ii	Lamp Black	209 (98)	0.96
ii	Red	200 (93)	0.95
ii	White	200 (93)	0.94
Quartz, Rough, Fused		70 (21)	0.93
ii	Glass, 1.98 mm	540 (282)	0.9
ii	Glass, 1.98 mm	1540 (838)	0.41
ii	Glass, 6.88 mm	540 (282)	0.93
ii	Glass, 6.88 mm	1540 (838)	0.47
ii	Opaque	570 (299)	0.92
ii	Opaque	1540 (838)	0.68
Red Lead		212 (100)	0.93
Rubber, Hard		74 (23)	0.94
Rubber, Soft, Grey		76 (24)	0.86
Sand		68 (20)	0.76
Sandstone		100 (38)	0.67
Sandstone, Red		100 (38)	.60-.83
Saw dust		68 (20)	0.75
Shale		68 (20)	0.69
Silica, Glazed		1832 (1000)	0.85
Silica, Unglazed		2012 (1100)	0.75
Silicon Carbide		300-1200 (149-649)	.83-.96
Silk Cloth		68 (20)	0.78
Slate		100 (38)	.67-.80
Snow , Fine Particles		20 (-7)	0.82
Snow , Granular		18 (-8)	0.89

Soil			
ii			
ii	Surface	100 (38)	0.38
ii	Black Loam	68 (20)	0.66
ii	Plowed Field	68 (20)	0.38
Soot			
ii			
ii	Acetylene	75 (24)	0.97
ii	Camphor	75 (24)	0.94
ii	Candle	250 (121)	0.95
ii	Coal	68 (20)	0.95
Stonework		100 (38)	0.93
Water		100 (38)	0.67
Waterglass		68 (20)	0.96
Wood		Low	.80-.90
Beech Planed		158 (70)	0.94
Oak, Planed		100 (38)	0.91
Spruce, Sanded		100 (38)	0.89

Material(metal)		Temp degF (degC)	Emissivity
Alloys			
ii	I-Ni, 24-CR, 55-FE, Ox	392 (200)	0.9
ii	I-Ni, 24-CR, 55-FE, Ox	932(500)	0.97
ii	I-Ni, 12-CR, 28-FE, Ox	518 (270)	0.89
ii	I-Ni, 12-CR, 28-FE, Ox	1040 (560)	0.82
ii	30-Ni, 20-CR, Oxidised	212 (100)	0.87
ii	30-Ni, 20-CR, Oxidised	1112 (600)	0.87
ii	30-Ni, 20-CR, Oxidised	2372 (1300)	0.89
Aluminium			
ii	Unoxidised	77 (25)	0.02
ii	Unoxidised	212 (100)	0.03
ii	Unoxidised	932 (500)	0.06
ii	Oxidised	390 (199)	0.11
ii	Oxidised	1110 (599)	0.19
ii	Oxidised at 599degC(1110degF)	390 (199)	0.11
ii	Oxidised at 599degC(1110degF)	1110 (599)	0.19
ii	Heavily Oxidised	200 (93)	0.2
ii	Heavily Oxidised	940 (504)	0.31
ii	Highly Polished	212 (100)	0.09
ii	Roughly Polished	212 (100)	0.18
ii	Commercial Sheet	212 (100)	0.09
ii	Highly Polished Plate	440 (227)	0.04
ii	Highly Polished Plate	1070 (577)	0.06
ii	Bright Rolled Plate	338 (170)	0.04
ii	Bright Rolled Plate	932 (500)	0.05
ii	Alloy A3003, Oxidised	600 (316)	0.4
ii	Alloy A3003, Oxidised	900 (482)	0.4
ii	Alloy 1100-0	200-800 (93-427)	0.05
ii	Alloy 24ST	75 (24)	0.09
ii	Alloy 24ST, Polished	75 (24)	0.09
ii	Alloy 75ST	75 (24)	0.11
ii	Alloy 75ST, Polished	75 (24)	0.08

Bismuth, Bright		176 (80)	0.34
Bismuth, Unoxidised		77 (25)	0.05
Bismuth, Unoxidised		212 (100)	0.06
Brass			
ii	73% Cu, 27% Zn, Polished	476 (247)	0.03
ii	73% Cu, 27% Zn, Polished	674 (357)	0.03
ii	62% Cu, 37% Zn, Polished	494 (257)	0.03
ii	62% Cu, 37% Zn, Polished	710 (377)	0.04
ii	83% Cu, 17% Zn, Polished	530 (277)	0.03
ii	Matte	68 (20)	0.07
ii	Burnished to Brown Colour	68 (20)	0.4
ii	Cu-Zn, Brass Oxidised	392 (200)	0.61
ii	Cu-Zn, Brass Oxidised	752 (400)	0.6
ii	Cu-Zn, Brass Oxidised	1112 (600)	0.61
ii	Unoxidised	77 (25)	0.04
ii	Unoxidised	212 (100)	0.04
ii	Cadmium	77 (25)	0.02
Carbon			
ii	Lampblack	77 (25)	0.95
ii	Unoxidised	77 (25)	0.81
ii	Unoxidised	212 (100)	0.81
ii	Unoxidised	932 (500)	0.79
ii	Candle Soot	250 (121)	0.95
ii	Filament	500 (260)	0.95
ii	Graphitized	212 (100)	0.76
ii	Graphitized	572 (300)	0.75
ii	Graphitized	932 (500)	0.71
Chromium		100 (38)	0.08
Chromium		1000 (538)	0.26
Chromium, Polished		302 (150)	0.06
Cobalt, Unoxidised		932 (500)	0.13
Cobalt, Unoxidised		1832 (1000)	0.23
Columbium, Unoxidised		1500 (816)	0.19
Columbium, Unoxidised		2000 (1093)	0.24
Copper			
ii	Cuprous Oxide	100 (38)	0.87
ii	Cuprous Oxide	500 (260)	0.83
ii	Cuprous Oxide	1000 (538)	0.77
ii	Black, Oxidised	100 (38)	0.78
ii	Etched	100 (38)	0.09
ii	Matte	100 (38)	0.22
ii	Roughly Polished	100 (38)	0.07
ii	Polished	100 (38)	0.03
ii	Highly Polished	100 (38)	0.02
ii	Rolled	100 (38)	0.64
ii	Rough	100 (38)	0.74
ii	Molten	1000 (538)	0.15
ii	Molten	1970 (1077)	0.16
ii	Molten	2230 (1221)	0.13
ii	Nickel Plated	100-500 (38-260)	0.37
Dow Metal		0.4-600 (-18-316)	0.15
Gold			
ii	Enamel	212 (100)	0.37
ii	Plate (.0001)	ii	ii
ii	Plate on .0005 Silver	200-750 (93-399)	.11-.14
ii	Plate on .0005 Nickel	200-750 (93-399)	.07-.09
ii	Polished	100-500 (38-260)	0.02
ii	Polished	1000-2000 (538-1093)	0.03

Haynes Alloy C,			
ii	Oxidised	600-2000 (316-1093)	.90-.96
Haynes Alloy 25,			
ii	Oxidised	600-2000 (316-1093)	.86-.89
Haynes Alloy X,			
ii	Oxidised	600-2000 (316-1093)	.85-.88
Inconel Sheet		1000 (538)	0.28
Inconel Sheet		1200 (649)	0.42
Inconel Sheet		1400 (760)	0.58
Inconel X, Polished		75 (24)	0.19
Inconel B, Polished		75 (24)	0.21
Iron			
ii	Oxidised	212 (100)	0.74
ii	Oxidised	930 (499)	0.84
ii	Oxidised	2190 (1199)	0.89
ii	Unoxidised	212 (100)	0.05
ii	Red Rust	77 (25)	0.7
ii	Rusted	77 (25)	0.65
ii	Liquid	2760-3220 (1516-1771)	.42-.45
Cast Iron			
ii	Oxidised	390 (199)	0.64
ii	Oxidised	1110 (599)	0.78
ii	Unoxidised	212 (100)	0.21
ii	Strong Oxidation	40 (104)	0.95
ii	Strong Oxidation	482 (250)	0.95
ii	Liquid	2795 (1535)	0.29
Wrought Iron			
ii	Dull	77 (25)	0.94
ii	Dull	660 (349)	0.94
ii	Smooth	100 (38)	0.35
ii	Polished	100 (38)	0.28
Lead			
ii	Polished	100-500 (38-260)	.06-.08
ii	Rough	100 (38)	0.43
ii	Oxidised	100 (38)	0.43
ii	Oxidised at 1100	100 (38)	0.63
ii	Gray Oxidised	100 (38)	0.28
Magnesium		100-500 (38-260)	.07-.13
Magnesium Oxide		1880-3140 (1027-1727)	.16-.20
Mercury		32 (0)	0.09
Mercury		77 (25)	0.1
Mercury		100 (38)	0.1
Mercury		212 (100)	0.12
Molybdenum		100 (38)	0.06
Molybdenum		500 (260)	0.08
Molybdenum		1000 (538)	0.11
Molybdenum		2000 (1093)	0.18
Molybdenum Oxidised at 1000degF		600 (316)	0.8
Molybdenum Oxidised at 1000degF		700 (371)	0.84
Molybdenum Oxidised at 1000degF		800 (427)	0.84
Molybdenum Oxidised at 1000degF		900 (482)	0.83
Molybdenum Oxidised at 1000degF		1000 (538)	0.82
Monel, Ni-Cu		392 (200)	0.41
Monel, Ni-Cu		752 (400)	0.44
Monel, Ni-Cu		1112 (600)	0.46
Monel, Ni-Cu Oxidised		68 (20)	0.43
Monel, Ni-Cu Oxid. at 1110degF		1110 (599)	0.46

Nickel			
ii	Polished	100 (38)	0.05
ii	Oxidised	100-500 (38-260)	.31-.46
ii	Unoxidised	77 (25)	0.05
ii	Unoxidised	212 (100)	0.06
ii	Unoxidised	932 (500)	0.12
ii	Unoxidised	1832 (1000)	0.19
ii	Electrolytic	100 (38)	0.04
ii	Electrolytic	500 (260)	0.06
ii	Electrolytic	1000 (538)	0.1
ii	Electrolytic	2000 (1093)	0.16
Nickel Oxide		1000-2000 (538-1093)	.59-.86
Palladium Plate (.00005 on .0005 silver)		200-750 (93-399)	.16-.17
Platinum		100 (38)	0.05
Platinum		500 (260)	0.05
Platinum		1000 (538)	0.1
Platinum, Black		100 (38)	0.93
Platinum, Black		500 (260)	0.96
Platinum, Black		2000 (1093)	0.97
Platinum Oxidised at 1100		500 (260)	0.07
Platinum Oxidised at 1100		1000 (538)	0.11
Rhodium Flash (0.0002 on 0.0005 Ni)		200-700 (93-371)	.10-.18
Silver			
ii	Plate (0.0005 on Ni)	200-700 (93-371)	.06-.07
ii	Polished	100 (38)	0.01
ii	Polished	500 (260)	0.02
ii	Polished	1000 (538)	0.03
ii	Polished	2000 (1093)	0.03
Steel			
ii	Cold Rolled	200 (93)	.75-.85
ii	Ground Sheet	1720-2010 (938-1099)	.55-.61
ii	Polished Sheet	100 (38)	0.07
ii	Polished Sheet	500 (260)	0.1
ii	Polished Sheet	1000 (538)	0.14
ii	Mild Steel, Polished	75 (24)	0.1
ii	Mild Steel, Smooth	75 (24)	0.12
ii	Mild Steel, liquid	2910-3270 (1599-1793)	0.28
ii	Steel, Unoxidised	212 (100)	0.08
ii	Steel, Oxidised	77 (25)	0.8
Steel Alloys			
ii	Type 301, Polished	75 (24)	0.27
ii	Type 301, Polished	450 (232)	0.57
ii	Type 301, Polished	1740 (949)	0.55
ii	Type 303, Oxidised	600-2000 (316-1093)	.74-.87
ii	Type 310, Rolled	1500-2100 (816-1149)	.56-.81
ii	Type 316, Polished	75 (24)	0.28
ii	Type 316, Polished	450 (232)	0.57
ii	Type 316, Polished	1740 (949)	0.66
ii	Type 321	200-800 (93-427)	.27-.32
ii	Type 321 Polished	300-1500 (149-815)	.18-.49
ii	Type 321 w/BK Oxide	200-800 (93-427)	.66-.76
ii	Type 347, Oxidised	600-2000 (316-1093)	.87-.91
ii	Type 350	200-800 (93-427)	.18-.27
ii	Type 350 Polished	300-1800 (149-982)	.11-.35
ii	Type 446, Polished	300-1500 (149-815)	.15-.37
ii	Type 17-7 PH	200-600 (93-316)	.44-.51
ii	Type 17-7 PH Polished	300-1500 (149-815)	.09-.16
ii	Type C1020, Oxidised	600-2000 (316-1093)	.87-.91
ii	Type PH-15-7 MO	300-1200 (149-649)	.07-.19

Stellite, Polished		68 (20)	0.18
Tantalum, Unoxidised		1340 (727)	0.14
Tantalum, Unoxidised		2000 (1093)	0.19
Tantalum, Unoxidised		3600 (1982)	0.26
Tantalum, Unoxidised		5306 (2930)	0.3
Tin, Unoxidised		77 (25)	0.04
Tin, Unoxidised		212 (100)	0.05
Tinned Iron, Bright		76 (24)	0.05
Tinned Iron, Bright		212 (100)	0.08
Titanium			
ii	Alloy C110M,Polished	300-1200 (149-649)	.08-.19
ii	Oxidised at 538degC(1000degF)	200-800 (93-427)	.51-.61
ii	Alloy Ti-95A, Oxidised at 538degC(200-800 (93-427)	.35-.48
ii	Anodized onto SS	200-600 (93-316)	.96-.82
Tungsten			
ii	Unoxidised	77 (25)	0.02
ii	Unoxidised	212 (100)	0.03
ii	Unoxidised	932 (500)	0.07
ii	Unoxidised	1832 (1000)	0.15
ii	Unoxidised	2732 (1500)	0.23
ii	Unoxidised	3632 (2000)	0.28
ii	Filament (Aged)	100 (38)	0.03
ii	Filament (Aged)	1000 (538)	0.11
ii	Filament (Aged)	5000 (2760)	0.35
Uranium Oxide		1880 (1027)	0.79
Zinc			
ii	Bright, Galvanised	100 (38)	0.23
ii	Commercial 99.1%	500 (260)	0.05
ii	Galvanised	100 (38)	0.28
ii	Oxidised	500-1000 (260-538)	0.11
ii	Polished	100 (38)	0.02
ii	Polished	500 (260)	0.03
ii	Polished	1000 (538)	0.04
ii	Polished	2000 (1093)	0.06