

Vocabulary



opaque a material that does not let light pass through it

A piece of wood is opaque.

Opaque materials do not transmit light. You cannot see through an opaque object. Light that hits an opaque object does not travel through it. Instead, the light bounces off or is absorbed.

translucent a material that lets some light pass through it

A frosted window is translucent. Translucent materials transmit some light. You can see some light shining through a translucent object. Some of the light that hits a translucent object bounces off or is scattered. Some of the light is absorbed. Some of the light is able to travel through it.

transparent a material that lets most light pass through it

A piece of glass is transparent.

Transparent materials transmit almost all light. You can see clearly through a transparent object. Very little of the light that hits a transparent object is scattered or absorbed. Almost all of the light is able to travel through it.