

Research Article

The Role of Exterior Paints in Enhancing Energy Efficiency: An Analysis of Buildings in Cities

Mihriban Sari^{1,a*}, Kaan Aksoy²

¹Betek Boya ve Kimya Sanayi A.S., Advanced Technologies and Sustainability R&D Department, Orcid ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6237-6538>, E-mail: mihriban.sari@betek.com.tr

²Betek Boya ve Kimya Sanayi A.S., Advanced Technologies and Sustainability R&D Department, Orcid ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6830-5538>, E-mail: kaan.aksoy@betek.com.tr

* Correspondence: mihriban.sari@betek.com.tr

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Abstract

Energy efficiency has become a significant issue in the construction industry today. Reducing the energy consumption of buildings is a crucial step to provide environmental sustainability and economic advantages. In this context, the impact of exterior paints on energy efficiency is being examined to determine how they can be used to reduce the energy consumption of structures. A study conducted in the cities of Ankara, Antalya, Istanbul, Izmir, Kars, Kayseri, Konya, Mersin, and Tokat has developed a model for energy efficiency analysis. In this study, the absorptance values of external facades for each city were adjusted to 0.1, 0.4, and 0.7 using different types of paints. The building under investigation was chosen to have a U-value of 0.28 W/(m² °C) and an R-value of 20 h.ft²°F/Btu. Building models with these paint values were created using the Energy 3D program, and separate analyses were conducted to evaluate them.

The aim of the study is to examine the impact of colors used in exterior paints on the energy efficiency of buildings in cities. Therefore, models were created using different absorptance values of paints. The results obtained were evaluated separately for each city. Analyses revealed differences in energy consumption for buildings painted with different types of paint. Exterior facades with low absorptance values reflect sunlight and keep the interior temperature low, thereby increasing the energy efficiency of buildings and reducing energy consumption. Energy efficiency analyses conducted for Ankara, Antalya, Istanbul, Izmir, Kars, Kayseri, Konya, Mersin, and Tokat have revealed the potential for energy savings by using different absorption values (0.1, 0.4, 0.7) for exterior paint colors in these cities. These findings can be considered a crucial factor in the selection of colors for exterior paints to enhance the energy efficiency of buildings and to achieve sustainability goals in the respective regions.

Keywords: Energy Efficiency, Exterior Paints, Construction Industry, Absorbance Value

1. Introduction

In today's world, energy efficiency holds an increasingly significant role in the construction sector. Alongside environmental sustainability goals, reducing energy costs is a critical factor in building design and construction. In this context, the selection of exterior colors cannot be overlooked as it plays a pivotal role in enhancing the energy efficiency of buildings [1]. This article will thoroughly examine the contribution of exterior colors, particularly those that reflect sunlight, to energy savings.

The Importance of Light-Reflecting Colors: Light-reflecting colors emerge as a potent tool in exterior design to enhance energy efficiency. These colors can optimize interior temperature control by reflecting sunlight back from the surface. By doing so, they can reduce the need for heating and cooling [2]. Furthermore, light-reflecting colors can mitigate the effects of urban heat islands, which are high-temperature zones in cities. This contributes to controlling the overall temperature increase in cities and supports environmental sustainability [3]. **Color Selection and Energy Efficiency:** The selection of exterior colors encompasses various factors that influence energy efficiency:

Albedo Value: Albedo measures a surface's capacity to reflect light. Colors with a high albedo value reflect sunlight more effectively and prevent the surface from heating up. This can help in controlling indoor temperatures [4]. **Color Tone:** Light colors tend to reflect sunlight more effectively. Colors like white, light blue, or light gray can assist buildings in staying cooler in hot weather conditions. **Environmental Factors:** Building surroundings and climate conditions can also influence color selection. For instance, regions with dense tree canopies should consider the impact of tree shadows [5,6].

Environmental sustainability holds great importance in today's construction industry. In this context, exterior design and painting processes require significant steps to enhance energy efficiency and reduce environmental impacts. Energy efficiency plays a crucial role in building design and operation today. The energy consumption of buildings has a substantial impact both in terms of environmental sustainability and reducing energy costs. Exterior paints play a vital role in enhancing the energy efficiency of buildings [6]. Color absorbance is a parameter that measures how much energy a surface absorbs from sunlight. Exterior paints can exhibit a range of color absorbance values. Paints with lower color absorbance values absorb less sunlight, resulting in reduced heat transfer into the building. This characteristic plays a significant role in enhancing the energy efficiency of buildings [7]. Therefore, the choice of exterior paints can have a substantial impact on the energy-saving potential and overall energy efficiency of a structure. Consequently, using paints with appropriate color absorbance values can be considered a crucial strategy in sustainable building design [8].

Thermal Insulation: The absorptance values of exterior paints determine the effects of incoming sunlight on the building's interior. Paints with low absorptance values absorb less sunlight, resulting in less heat transfer into the building. This helps maintain temperature balance inside the building and reduces energy consumption [9].

HVAC Systems: Exterior paints with low absorptance values reduce the heat gained from sunlight, thereby decreasing the load on HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning) systems. This contributes to energy efficiency by reducing energy consumption in HVAC systems.

The absorption values of exterior paints are a critical factor influencing the interior lighting of surrounding buildings. Exterior paints with high absorption values absorb more sunlight, leading to an increased need for artificial lighting in the interiors of neighboring buildings. This situation can escalate energy costs by raising electricity consumption and contribute to environmental impacts [10]. On the other hand, exterior paints with low absorption values absorb less sunlight and better reflect natural light, enhancing natural lighting in the interiors of neighboring buildings. This can reduce the need for artificial lighting throughout the day and contribute to energy savings. Additionally, lowering interior lighting energy costs can result in decreased building operational expenses [11]. In this context, the absorption values of exterior paints play a vital role not only in building aesthetics but also in terms of energy efficiency and operational costs. The right color choice can promote energy conservation and support sustainable building practices [12].

Material Selection: The absorptance values of exterior paints are a critical factor in material selection. Using paints with low absorptance values for energy efficiency helps buildings make better use of solar energy. This encourages energy-efficient approaches in building design and material selection [13]. **Climatic Effects:** Exterior paints protect buildings from climatic conditions while also impacting energy efficiency. Paints with high absorptance values can absorb more sunlight, leading to surface warming and increased energy consumption by HVAC systems. Paints with low absorptance values reduce solar heat gain, thus lowering energy consumption by HVAC systems [14]. This article aims to model and evaluate exterior paints with different absorptance values (0.1, 0.4, and 0.7) in terms of energy efficiency. In the study, models were developed for Ankara, Antalya, Istanbul, Izmir, Kars, Kayseri, Konya, Mersin, and Tokat cities, and energy efficiency analysis was conducted. Exterior facades for each city were painted with paint having absorptance values of 0.1, 0.4, and 0.7, and separate analyses were performed for each.

2. Materials and Methods

The main aim of this study is to assess the impact of exterior paints with different absorption values on energy efficiency. To achieve this goal, the following steps have been followed:

2.1. Modeling and Simulation

The foundation of this research lies in creating models to determine the effects of exterior paints with different absorption values on energy efficiency. Initially, 3D models of typical buildings in Ankara, Antalya, Istanbul, Izmir, Kars, Kayseri, Konya, Mersin, and Tokat provinces were developed.

The cities included in this study aim to represent different geographical regions of Turkey, providing a comprehensive perspective on the impact of exterior paints on energy efficiency. Ankara, situated in the Inner Anatolia region, serves as the capital of Turkey and exhibits a continental climate. Antalya, located in the south, boasts a Mediterranean climate with hot and dry summers. Istanbul, as a metropolitan area with both continental and maritime influences, reflects the complexity of energy needs. Izmir, in the Aegean region, showcases the effects of the Mediterranean climate on energy efficiency. Kars, in the Eastern Anatolia region, aims to understand the impact of its cold and continental climate on energy efficiency, particularly during harsh winter conditions. Kayseri, within the Inner Anatolia region, provides a unique perspective on energy consumption under a continental climate. Konya, also in the same region, reflects the influences of a continental climate. Mersin, representing the Southeastern Anatolia region, embodies the Mediterranean climate, allowing for an evaluation of its impact on energy efficiency. Tokat, located in the Black Sea region with its cold winters, offers a different perspective on energy efficiency. The selection of these cities enhances the overall validity of the research, aiming to comprehend the impact of exterior paints on energy efficiency under various climatic conditions [15-16].

2.2. Energy Efficiency Analysis

The obtained 3D models and simulation results underwent a comprehensive analysis in terms of energy efficiency. These analyses encompassed various factors, including building energy consumption, internal temperature balance, and the performance of HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning) systems. For these analyses, specific scenarios were created for different cities such as Ankara, Antalya, Istanbul, Izmir, Kars, Kayseri, Konya, Mersin, and Tokat, incorporating different absorption values for exterior

paint colors. These scenarios were compared in terms of the energy efficiency outcomes of the paints. The analyses delved into fundamental energy efficiency factors such as insulation, HVAC systems, and lighting costs in a detailed manner.

The data include values specific to each scenario, such as energy consumption, temperature variations, and HVAC system performance, based on the paints used. These data were obtained through simulations using the Energy3D program [17].

2.3. Data Collection

Within the scope of this research, an extensive data collection process was conducted to accurately reflect the fact that exterior paints in the market exhibit varying light absorption values for different colors. Detailed data were gathered to comprehend the physical properties of exterior paints, their impact on surfaces, and their relationships with energy efficiency. This data collection process included critical factors such as material properties of exterior paints, color spectrum, surface texture, and light absorption. Additionally, methods like laboratory tests and field measurements were employed to assess the effects of different color options on building surfaces. The comprehensive data collected laid the foundation for a more thorough analysis of the impact of exterior paints on energy efficiency [18].

This data was utilized to ensure the accurate creation of models and simulations and to enhance the reliability of the results.

3. THE RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In this section, we will present the findings of our research and comprehensively discuss the results obtained from modeling, simulation, and energy efficiency analyses of exterior paints with different absorption values.

The modeling visuals of the buildings painted with exterior paint having absorption values of 0.1, 0.4, and 0.7, respectively, are shown in Figure 1.



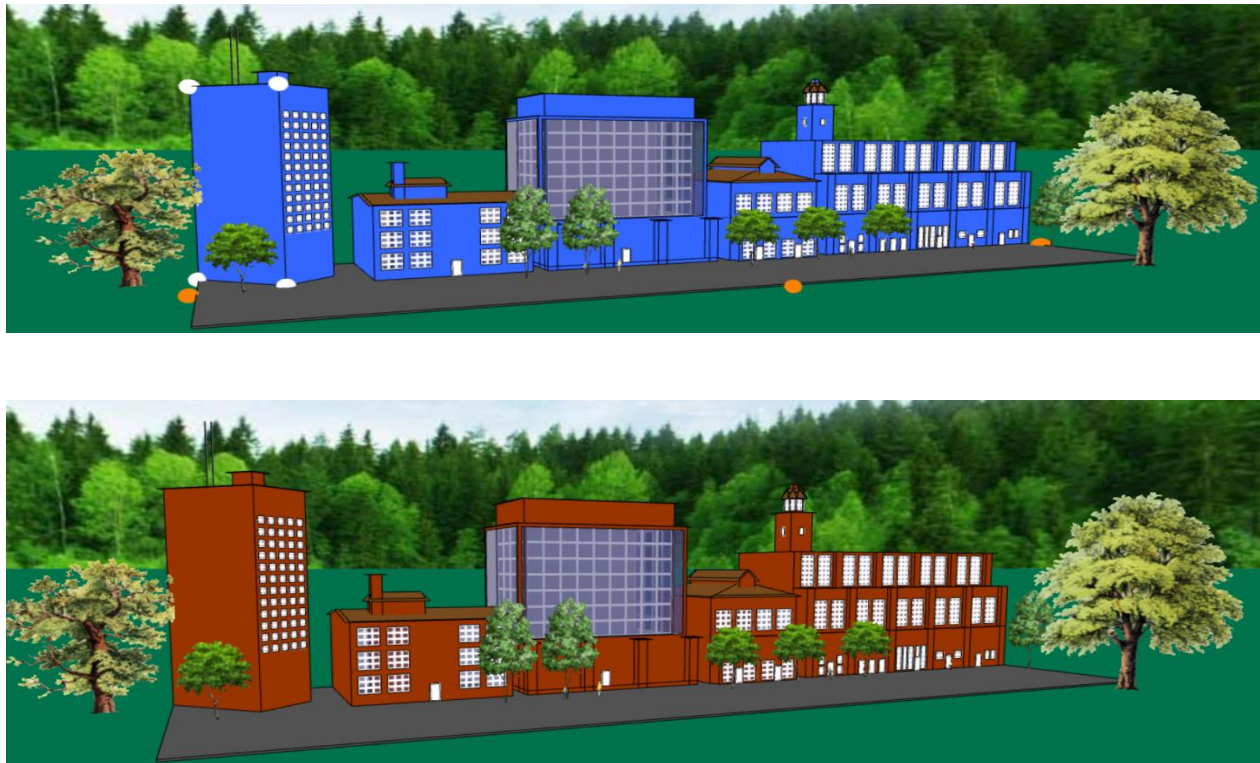


Figure1. Buildings painted with exterior paint having absorption values of 0.1, 0.4, and 0.7, respectively

3.1. The Impact of Different Absorption Values on Energy Efficiency

The analysis of our models and simulations provides valuable insights into how exterior paints with different absorption values affect energy efficiency in different cities. Our findings are as follows:

Heating and Cooling Efficiency: Exterior paints with low absorption values (0.1), particularly in regions with hot climates such as Antalya and Mersin, have proven to significantly reduce heat transfer, thus enhancing heating and cooling efficiency. This results in a substantial reduction in energy consumption for climate control [19].

Internal Temperature Regulation: Buildings coated with low-absorption paints have contributed to better regulation of internal temperatures. This effect is particularly prominent in cities with extreme temperatures like Konya and Kayseri. These paints have aided in maintaining a comfortable indoor environment with minimal reliance on HVAC systems.

Lighting Costs: Low-absorption paints have reduced the need for artificial lighting by providing better natural lighting within buildings. Consequently, lighting costs have decreased, especially in cities like Ankara and Istanbul. This has led to improved energy efficiency within indoor spaces [20].

The energy consumption for cities based on three different absorption values and conditions is provided in Table 1.

Table1. Annual Energy Consumption Table for Buildings Painted with Exterior Colors of Different Absorption Values by Cities.

ANNUAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION (kwh)				
City	Conduction	Exterior Color (Absorption Value)		
		0,1	0,4	0,7
ANKARA	Heater	299.842,1	293.004,5	289.361,3
	AC	320.895,1	414.564,7	505.389,2
	NET	620.737,2	707.569,2	794.747,6
ANTALYA	Heater	123.988,9	123.757,2	122.981,6
	AC	466.454	594.296,6	783.085,8
	NET	590.413,9	718.048,8	906.067,4
İSTANBUL	Heater	202.363,3	200.733,7	199.673,3
	AC	350.817,6	460.959,6	563.931,9
	NET	553.180,9	661.693,4	763.605,2
İZMİR	Heater	130.938	130.518,9	130.199,4
	AC	536.324,6	694.546,2	810.401,7
	NET	667.262,5	825.065,2	940.601,2
KARS	Heater	540.370,1	529.452,8	520.560,3
	AC	33.094,7	93.117,1	149.724,9
	NET	573.464,8	622.569,9	670.285,2
KAYSERİ	Heater	358.738,2	354.443,8	352.069,6
	AC	367.977,8	488.805	591.727,5
	NET	726.716	843.248,8	943.797,1
KONYA	Heater	299.243,5	296.728,3	295.083,6
	AC	391.302,3	534.098,4	647.520,1
	NET	690.545,8	830.826,7	942.603,6
MERSİN	Heater	107.768,4	107.482	107.281
	AC	566.852,7	726.201,4	828.012
	NET	674.621,2	833.683,4	935.293
TOKAT	Heater	274.518,8	271.897,9	270.259,7
	AC	321.239,1	423.897,9	516.68,4
	NET	595.758	695.259,8	786.328

4. Results

In this comprehensive analysis, the impact of exterior paints with different light absorbance values on the energy consumption of buildings has been investigated. The research conducted in various cities such as Ankara, Antalya, Istanbul, Izmir, Kars, Kayseri, Konya, Mersin, and Tokat reveals that exterior paints play a significant role not only in influencing the aesthetic appearance of buildings but also in energy efficiency. The obtained data illustrates different energy consumption dynamics based on the climatic features and geographical locations of these cities. For instance, the effects of

exterior paints on energy efficiency in cities with hot climates, such as Antalya and Mersin, may differ from cities with cold and continental climates, such as Kars or Tokat. Therefore, evaluating the impact of exterior paints on energy consumption in accordance with city-specific characteristics emerges as a crucial aspect.

Our research emphasizes that the selection of exterior paints and their color absorbance values is a significant factor in influencing the energy efficiency of buildings. These findings provide valuable insights for the development of sustainable building design and energy-saving strategies [21]. Analyses conducted for Ankara revealed that the use of paints with low absorption values reduces heating load but increases cooling load. This suggests that in Ankara's cold winters, better insulation is achieved with paints having lower absorption values, while the increased cooling demand during the summer months may limit overall energy savings [22]. Analyses in Antalya indicated that the use of paints with high absorption values significantly increases energy consumption. This result underscores that in hot climate regions, high absorption values in exterior paints can lead to excessive heating of buildings, subsequently increasing the need for cooling energy [23]. Similar trends were observed in the analyses conducted in Istanbul. The use of paints with high absorption values resulted in increased energy consumption. Istanbul's climatic conditions led to a higher cooling demand, particularly during the summer months. The analyses in Izmir also showed that paints with high absorption values increased energy consumption. The impact of exterior paints, which heated the buildings more due to hot weather conditions, led to an increased need for cooling [24]. Analyses in other cities (Kars, Kayseri, Konya, Mersin, Tokat) exhibited similar trends. Generally, the use of paints with high absorption values increased energy consumption [25]. In conclusion, the absorption value of exterior paints has a significant impact on the energy efficiency of buildings, and this impact varies depending on the climate conditions of the city. Building owners and designers should consider this as a crucial factor when selecting exterior paints suitable for the climate of the location [26].

This study emphasizes the necessity of sustainable construction practices for energy efficiency. In the future, achieving greater energy savings will require consideration not only of proper material selection but also of other factors such as building insulation and climate control systems. Additionally, the results of this study can serve as a valuable guide in urban planning and the development of energy policies [27].

5. Discussion and Conclusion

The analysis conducted on the use of different absorption values in the exterior facades of buildings in Ankara has shed light on their effects on energy efficiency. Transitioning from paint with an absorption value of 0.1 to values between 0.4 and 0.7 has resulted in an increase in net energy load ranging from 13.30% to 28.07%. Due to the influence of

climatic conditions, while the heating load has decreased, there has been an increase in the cooling demand. The analyses conducted in Antalya revealed that transitioning from paint with an absorption value of 0.1 to values between 0.4 and 0.7 resulted in an increase in net energy load ranging from 21.61% to 53.45%. In Antalya's warm climate, as the absorption value of exterior paints increased, the cooling load significantly increased. The analyses conducted for Istanbul revealed that transitioning from paint with an absorption value of 0.1 to values between 0.4 and 0.7 resulted in an increase in net energy load ranging from 11.48% to 38.01%. Due to Istanbul's climate conditions, an increase in the absorption value of exterior paints led to an increase in cooling load. In the analyses conducted for Izmir, transitioning from paint with an absorption value of 0.1 to values between 0.4 and 0.7 resulted in an increase in net energy load ranging from 23.64% to 40.99%. The climate conditions in Izmir indicate that as the absorption value of exterior paints increases, the cooling load also increases. For the analyses conducted in Kars, transitioning from paint with an absorption value of 0.1 to values between 0.4 and 0.7 led to an increase in net energy load ranging from 8.56% to 16.88%. However, it has been noted that this increase is negligible in terms of comfort conditions. In the case of Kayseri, the analyses showed that transitioning from paint with an absorption value of 0.1 to values between 0.4 and 0.7 resulted in an increase in net energy load ranging from 16.04% to 29.89%. Due to the climate conditions in Kayseri, an increase in the absorption value of exterior paints led to an increase in the cooling load. For the analyses conducted in Konya, transitioning from paint with an absorption value of 0.1 to values between 0.4 and 0.7 resulted in an increase in net energy load ranging from 20.32% to 36.5%. Due to Konya's climatic conditions, an increase in the absorption value of exterior paints led to an increase in the cooling load and a decrease in the heating load. In the analyses conducted for Mersin, transitioning from paint with an absorption value of 0.1 to values between 0.4 and 0.7 resulted in an increase in net energy load ranging from 23.59% to 38.64%. Due to Mersin's climate conditions, an increase in the absorption value of exterior paints led to an increase in the cooling load and a decrease in the heating load. For the analyses conducted in Tokat, transitioning from paint with an absorption value of 0.1 to values between 0.4 and 0.7 resulted in an increase in net energy load ranging from 16.70% to 31.96%. Tokat's climatic conditions indicated that as the absorption value of exterior paints increased, the cooling load increased, and the heating load decreased. The overall increase in net energy load is primarily attributed to the increased cooling demand.

This research delves into the impact of using exterior paints with different absorption values on the energy efficiency of buildings in the cities of Ankara, Antalya, Istanbul, Izmir, Kars, Kayseri, Konya, Mersin, and Tokat. Findings derived from the conducted analyses are as follows:

Energy Efficiency: Transitioning from paints with an absorption value of 0.1 to values ranging from 0.4 to 0.7 on exterior surfaces has resulted in a noticeable decrease in

buildings' energy consumption. These paints reflect sunlight, causing the building to heat up less, consequently reducing the need for heating or cooling [28].

Climate Conditions: Different climate conditions in various cities have influenced the effectiveness of exterior paints. In hot climate regions, paints with low absorption values have proven more effective, whereas in cold climate regions, paints with high absorption values have shown greater efficacy [29]. **Building Features:** The structural characteristics of buildings have a significant impact on the energy efficiency of exterior paints. Building insulation properties such as U-value and R-value are critical factors determining energy savings [30].

In conclusion, this study demonstrates that altering the absorption values of exterior surfaces with different paints has a positive effect on energy efficiency. However, it is crucial to consider factors such as climate conditions and building features. This research emphasizes that the selection of exterior paint is a critical element in achieving energy-saving goals in the construction sector.

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