

Advanced Physical Metallurgy

“Amorphous Materials”

– from the Greek for “without form” – refer not to materials that have no , but rather to materials with no . The atoms or molecules of amorphous materials are arranged in essentially the same manner as they are in a . An amorphous material is still – the molecules are closely packed and chemically bonded, and the materials exhibits an elastic response to – but the spatial arrangement of the atoms is nearly . In contrast, the building blocks of crystalline solid are arranged in orderly, 3-dimensional, arrays.

Also known as non-crystalline solids, glasses, or disordered solids, amorphous materials are characterized by their rather than their . This is because, under the right conditions, can be prepared as an amorphous solid. All amorphous materials have . The form will generally be more stable and chemical equilibrium, whereas the amorphous form is not.

Preparing an amorphous solid requires to avoid . The cooling rate that constitutes rapid cooling varies with the type of material. For metals, the speeds of cooling limit the of metallic glasses, even for the newly developed bulk metallic glasses. Many ceramics and many polymer blends are more prepared as glasses; some are ubiquitous and familiar.

Amorphous materials – whether metals, ceramics, or polymers – are characterized by a . This structure is readily evident from a comparison of the of an amorphous material to that of a liquid. The structure of amorphous materials leads to distinctive such as transparency, plasticity, and elastic recoil.

particular structure / diffraction pattern / periodic / solid / liquid /
 liquid-like structure / easily / structure / composition / Amorphous /
 crystalline counterparts / size / shape / crystallization / properties /
 rapid cooling / crystalline / any material / random / shear stresses /