

16.24 (a) Reasons why fiberglass-reinforced composites are utilized extensively are: (1) glass fibers are very inexpensive to produce; (2) these composites have relatively high specific strengths; and (3) they are chemically inert in a wide variety of environments.

(b) Several limitations of these composites are: (1) care must be exercised in handling the fibers inasmuch as they are susceptible to surface damage; (2) they are lacking in stiffness in comparison to other fibrous composites; and (3) they are limited as to maximum temperature use.