

Rapid Set® Color Consistency

When working with pigmented products, there are many variables and factors that will influence the final color of your application. This Technical Bulletin provides best practices to minimize color variation and yield better color consistency.

1. Ensure all products that are to be used on-site have the same lot number. By mixing products made in the same lot, you will be less likely to have color variations between bags. In the event of multiple lot numbers between products, be sure to dry mix the products before adding water. This will ensure a proper blend and minimize color variation, especially in larger applications.
2. Always maintain consistent water ratios, mixing times, mixing equipment, and mixing procedures. Having a high water to cement ratio will result in a lighter color, while having a low water to cement ratio will yield a darker color. Mixing times and mixing procedures may also influence the final appearance as a longer mixing time may disperse the color more evenly, giving it a more vibrant appearance.
3. Application techniques, tools, and methods may also play a factor in the final appearance. When comparing a smooth trowel finished to a textured finish with the same product, you may see a slight variation in color caused by the texture differences. When applying a smooth trowel finish, be sure to maintain the same pressure and technique. Over troweling with a steel trowel may lead to burnishing the material, causing a different appearance.
4. Keep curing procedures as consistent as possible. Applying the material in an area containing both direct sunlight and shaded areas will cause the material to cure at different rates, affecting the final look. Water curing may also lead to a lighter appearance as adding extra water may dilute the pigment on the surface. Be sure to maintain a consistent amount of water on the surface across the entire application if water curing is needed to achieve a uniform color finish.

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