

Integral Color Guide

**JOBSITE
SUPPLY**

CONSTRUCTION IDEAS AT WORK

We work with your ready mix supplier

- Your concrete supplier is now using a liquid pigment dosing system provided by Jobsite Supply. This fully automated system accurately doses liquid pigments directly into the ready mix truck for **consistent** color, load after load. This new system produces a range of hues as it blends pigments to provide you with practically any color. **We have over 300 colors in stock!**
- You can now work with your customer to choose a color by name from the **Solomon ColorFlo** liquid color brochure. Stop by our showroom and pick up a color chart, or visit our web site.
- Always refer to a sample created with local materials to ensure color of the final product meets the customer's expectations.

Set realistic expectations with your customer

- Concrete is made from naturally occurring materials. As with stone, concrete colored or uncolored has variation. It is important to plan for variation from the beginning. Patterns from stamping, brooming or exposed aggregate can diffuse light and minimize variations in the final product. Educate your customer about textures by visiting similar jobs in the area, preferably one that you have already finished.
- Showing project photographs also provides an excellent opportunity to discuss expectations, promote your services and additional finishing options. Always create a realistic mock-up for customer approval before beginning the project. Use the same methods and products on the mock-up that you will use during the project.

Weather

- Variations in the water-to-cement ratio have a significant effect on concrete color. Maintain a **consistent** water/cement ratio throughout the project and follow ACI guidelines for hot and cold weather concreting.
- Schedule the placing and finishing to minimize exposure to the hot sun before curing materials are applied. During windy conditions, use **Fritz Pak Control Finish** as a finishing aid to avoid crusting from the surface drying out too quickly.
- Don't pour colored concrete if rain, snow or frost is in the forecast.
- Dark or black-colored concrete will be exposed to additional heat during sunny, dry conditions. Provide extra curing protection to prevent thermal cracking when this combination is anticipated. Place concrete in similar conditions if possible.
- Maintain concrete temperature between 60°F and 80°F in most applications for proper curing to occur during the crucial first days.

The Golden Rule: Consistency – Consistency – Consistency

Consistency is the rule for integral colored concrete. Plan the process in advance to ensure a **consistent** quality product. **Consistency** with producing, placing and finishing of the concrete will enhance the quality and look of the final project.

Site Preparation

- Uniformly grade, compact and dampen the sub grade.
- Add a 2-3” layer of sand, gravel, or crushed stone compacted to ensure a consistent base.
- Do not place concrete if the ground has standing water, hard or soft spots, ice, frost or muddy areas.
- Follow American Concrete Institute (ACI) procedures for the installation of vapor barriers when applicable.

Forms and Reinforcement

- For slabs, place formwork to achieve **consistent** thickness throughout, to ensure even curing and even color.
- In vertical applications, seal forms to ensure no leakage and staining of the surrounding area.
- In applications where the formed surface is visible use form liners or a resin coated high-density overlay plywood.
- Always use a form release agent that is compatible with colored concrete, such as our JS Super2 form release.

Mix Design

- Ask your ready mix supplier for recommendations on the specific mix designs. Here are a few general guidelines.
- The slump should be no greater than 4” unless a midrange or high-range water-reducing admixture is used.
- Low water-to-cement ratios will minimize shrinking and cracking, maximize concrete strength and produce a richer, darker color.

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Placing

- Minimize water added to fresh concrete at the job site. Water added to the mixer, pumps or placing tools; can cause white spots on the surface.
- Discharge concrete as close as possible to the final location. Move the concrete with shovels instead of vibrators.
- Protect areas near the pour with plastic sheets. Splatters can stain adjacent slabs and structures.

Finishing

- Time, attention to detail and consistency in finishing, will pay off in your final product allowing your customer to enjoy your craftsmanship.
- Avoid adding water to your finishing tools. This will cause pale streaks discoloring the surface.
- Bull float after striking off the slab. Magnesium bull floats can trap moisture in the surface of the concrete; use wood floats and darbies when possible.
- As with regular concrete, wait for the bleed water to completely disappear before troweling as this can also trap moisture. Over troweling or late troweling leads to burns and dark spots. The potential for discoloration rises as troweling time increases. The easiest way to achieve color uniformity is to skip troweling and use a broom or swirl finish. Less time spent on finishing the concrete is better for consistent color.

Curing and Sealing

- Now that you have the proper finish, complete the job with JS Crystal Clear Cure and Seal; a membrane-forming cure and seal formulated for colored concrete. A properly applied curing compound will assist in achieving consistent drying and a consistent final color. Lack of proper curing can lead to shrinkage cracks, dusting and surface deterioration.
- Any saw cutting, either decorative or structural, should take place before sealing materials are applied. Thoroughly clean all cutting residue before applying sealing products.
- Curing with water sprinkling, membranes, poly, paper, sodium or fluoro silicate-type hardeners and non-approved compounds can cause discoloration. If water is used to cure, a lighter color is likely.
- Always use JS Crystal Clear Cure and Seal to protect and maintain colored concrete. It is perfect for decorative concrete because it will never yellow like most other sealers.

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Efflorescence

- Efflorescence is a salt deposit that forms on concrete, causing unsightly white stains. Water, concrete permeability and soluble salt content determine how much and when efflorescence will occur.
- Control efflorescence by mixing with a low water/cement ratio, use a curing compound, and design a well-drained subgrade.
- Decorative concrete sealed with **JS Crystal Clear Cure & Seal** protects against water penetration and leaks.
- Keep de-icing salts away from concrete. If using a de-icing product use **Peladow**, which is a safer alternative.
- Efflorescence can be removed with a water wash and a stiff bristle broom, if treated early. If not, it converts to calcium carbonate, which is removed with diluted muriatic acid wash that can affect the surface appearance.

**Call us today for more information
(317) 684-7474 or visit our web-site at www.jobsitesupply.com**

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