

# Tech Hotline

**No. 0694-C**  
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## HELPFUL TIPS TO PREVENT COLOR PROBLEMS

### ORDERING

1. Always request matches to a standard color for best results.
2. Don't request exact matches. This is an unreasonable request for any coatings manufacturer to fulfill.
3. Provide a sample to match to for non-standard colors.

### LOCAL TINTING with Tint Dispensing Station

1. Implement quality control. You are the color manufacturer when tinting pails locally with a tint dispensing station and must verify color match accuracy before shipping product.
2. Where possible have the customer acknowledge the color match. This can avoid disputes later.

### APPLICATION

1. Avoid installing different batches of finish side-by-side whenever possible. Install them at architectural breaks on the same elevation, on different elevations or along inconspicuous wall areas. Minor, but tolerable variations in color will occur from batch to batch, which may become noticeable when different batches are installed on large, conspicuous wall areas. If absolutely necessary to install different batches of finish side-by-side, mix the pails together by adding an equal volume from one batch to each pail of the other batch; or, for a small quantity of pails, mix all the material together in one large mixing container.
2. Avoid installing new finish adjacent to aged or weathered finish. After a certain amount of time, a finish will show minor discoloration caused by dirt, air pollution, rain or other environmental conditions. The new finish, despite being accurately matched to the original batch, may not match the weathered surface. If finish must be applied in such an area, provide a sample from the wall to match to.
3. Always keep a small portion of the first batch of finish on hand for touch up work at the end of jobs.

4. Avoid floating finishes with a worn or non-stainless steel trowel, which can cause "burn" marks in the finish. Use the same type of trowel to float the finish throughout the installation and use a consistent floating technique. Varying the floating technique can result in different textures, which are perceived as color variations in the finish. Use a plastic float for "R" (rilled) texture finishes.
5. When spraying finishes spray consistently and directly. Avoid spraying at different angles which causes the finish to cast a shadow on itself and a perceived color difference. Priming is always helpful to enhance color on spray applications.
6. Do not apply finish in direct sunlight. Different rates of drying will occur between areas in shade versus those in the sun. Scaffolding will similarly create shadow lines where the finish dries more slowly than adjacent areas. Different drying rates can result in different color.
7. Use tinted Sto Primer as background color with "R" (rilled) finishes, Sto Granitex, Sto Decocoat or smaller aggregate finishes (K1 or less). Use Sto Primer over unevenly colored base coat, porous cement plaster, concrete or masonry to even the absorption of the surface and to equalize the drying rate of the finish, and hence, provide uniform color.
8. Add equal amounts of water to each pail of finish, especially dark colors, and refrain from adding excessive amounts of water. When misting the finish, mist evenly.
9. Make certain surfaces are within tolerance. Wavy or irregular surfaces will affect how light is reflected from the surface, which can result in perceived color differences.
10. If the color appears to be incorrect – **STOP** – call your Sto representative for assistance before proceeding.