



Tech Hotline

No. 0611 - E

Top 10 Rules to Prevent Color Problems

Most color problems can easily be avoided. Following these 10 simple rules will help lead to successful projects. Ignoring these rules will eventually lead you to costly color problems. Please follow the rules!

1. Always order (or produce) an actual sample of the color in the specific Sto product being used on the job. If the product changes at the last minute, make a new sample.
2. Always get signed approval on the sample prior to shooting or ordering 5 gallon pails (5GP).
3. If pails are tinted at the Distributor location, check the first pail tinted to approve color. Save a retained board of the batch for your records.
4. Always apply a job site mock up using actual 5GP production material. Approve the color and texture of the mock up before proceeding.
5. Do not assume that a single color number in different Sto products, or on a different color chart, will be the same color. If you need two or more Sto products to match each other, order custom matches to do that. If you need a Sto product to match another manufacturer's chip or chart your customer has in his hand, send us the chip to custom match. See Rule #1.
6. Avoid installing different batches side by side. Install different batches at true architectural breaks such as corners and different elevations, or along inconspicuous wall areas. Minor (normal) batch to batch variation may become noticeable when installed on large, conspicuous wall areas.
7. If absolutely necessary to install different batches side by side, mix several of each batch together 50/50 to make the transition. This is called boxing.
8. Substrate is a very important factor in final color appearance. The substrate must be consistent or color variation will occur. Use a Sto Primer over unevenly colored base coat, stucco and over porous concrete or masonry. Surface must be consistent to equalize the drying rate of the finish, and hence, provide uniform color.
9. Avoid installing new finish adjacent to aged or weathered finish. Stop and start at true architectural breaks.
10. If at any step of this process a color appears to be incorrect – STOP. Call your Sto representative before proceeding.