



Recommendation for Pre-Construction Jobsite Sample Panels

Workrite® color kits contain sample strips of our colored cements for masonry. The sample strips are produced and cured in our color lab in a controlled environment, and are intended to be a representation of the individual colors we provide. We strongly recommend the practice of building pre-construction jobsite panels in the manner in which the walls will be built, cured and cleaned during actual construction for pre-approval.

Please note, there are several factors that can affect the final appearance of a mortar joint.

Sand Color- Workrite strips are made with a neutral light tan sand color. Sand color can have an effect on the final color of the mortar. Sands come in many colors and gradations, and account for approximately 75% of mortar by volume.

Sand Gradation- The gradation of sand affects the water demand required to achieve desired workability. Mortars with higher water-to-cement ratios tend to be lighter in color than those having lower water contents.

Proportion and Mixing- Controlling mortar texture and color requires consistent materials. A change in aggregate ratio changes the amount of water required to achieve desired workability, which affects both texture and color in the finished mortar joint.

Unit Suction and Tooling- Different brick and block have varying initial rates of absorption (IRA). When freshly-mixed mortar is placed between units, the amount of water absorbed varies depending upon the unit. Tooling a very wet joint pulls higher water content paste to the surface resulting in a porous lighter surface color. If the mortar is tooled too stiff, the resulting friction delivers in a darker surface color. Due to the high fineness of pigments, they concentrate on the surface of the mortar joint, making colored mortar especially sensitive to the tooling techniques used.

Cleaning- Improper cleaning procedures can completely alter the appearance of the mortar joint, changing both texture and color. If the cleaning technique dissolves the cement/pigment paste from the surface, the appearance can become dominated by the color of the sand particles exposed at the surface. Use the least aggressive cleaning technique possible.