Uses: Davis Colors are used in cast-in-place, slab-on-grade, precast, tilt-up and decorative concrete; shotcrete, mortar, concrete masonry units, pavers, retaining wall units and roofs. They can also be used to color cast stone, plaster, stucco and other cement-based construction materials. Designed for mix-in use only, they should not be splattered or dusted onto the concrete surface.

Ingredients: Pure, concentrated pigments made of high-quality metal oxides recycled from iron or refrained from the earth and specially processed for mixing into concrete. Davis Colors comply with C-975 Pigments for Integrally Colored Concrete. They are lightfast, alkali resistant, weather resistant, durable and long lasting like concrete. Davis Colors are available in a wide spectrum of standard colors and can be custom formulated to match design requirements. Unlike other Davis Colors, Supra-Instant® Black #8084 is a specially treated carbon black. Carbon black is the highest in tint strength and the most economical, but can fade if concrete is not sealed against water penetration. Scaling and periodic re-sealing can minimize this effect.

Packaging: Concrete suppliers use our Mix-Ready® dispersing bags or Chameleon® bulk handling system. The Chameleon® is a computer-controlled automatic color dosing system used by concrete producers. Mix-Ready® bags are tossed into the mix without opening or pouring. They disintegrate under mixing action, releasing pigments to disperse uniformly leaving no bags to litter the environment.

Installation: Integrally colored concrete is installed the same way as high quality uncolored concrete. Choose a color on the inside of this color card and specify it by name and color number. Create a custom color by varying the amount of color added to the mix. Confirm desired color with a full-sized job-site test panel. Dry color dose rates range from 1/2 to 3 lbs per 94 lbs of cement content and should never exceed 10% of cement content. (Liquid dose rates are higher). Cement content includes portland cement, fly ash, silica fume, limestone and other cementitious materials but does not include aggregate or sand. Davis Colors have been used successfully in a wide variety of mix designs and are compatible with commercially available admixtures. The only known incompatibility is with calcium chloride set accelerator which causes blotching and discoloration. Supra-Instant® Black #8084 reduces or negates the effect of air-entraining admixtures.

Finishes: Paving and floors can be finished with pattern-stamped, broomed, troweled, exposed aggregate, salt-finished, sand-blasted, diamond polishing or any other visually appealing textures. Cast-in-place, precast and tilt-up structures can be textured with sand-blasting, bushhammering, grinding, polishing, special forms or form liners. The combinations and possibilities are endless. Here are just a few:

Curing & Sealing: W-1000 Clear® is a non-clumping, spray-on cure and sealer that meets or exceeds ASTM C939 standards and is specifically formulated for colored concrete and exposed aggregate finishes. Other curing methods, such as water curing or plastic sheets cause discoloration. Color Seal® is an optional, thin film sealer that’s tinted to match the shades on this Color Selector. When applied over colored concrete or the W-1000 Clear®, it provides a more uniform appearance.

Quality Tips: For best results, materials, curing, weather conditions and workmanship should be uniform throughout a project. Quality starts with the concrete mix, use a low water-content, high-performance mix design. When planning a project, budget for craftsmanship.

Consumer Advice: Contractors are independently owned and operated without affiliation to Davis Colors. Choose a licensed and qualified contractor who provides written information and example projects you can see before you buy. Check the yellow pages, ask your local ready mix or building material dealer or visit www.concreteconnection.com to find contractors who specialize in colored concrete.

Specify Davis: Choose a color from this color selector and specify it by name and color number. Add color code to all plans documents or specifications. For more information, visit our web site, refer to our architectural binder, call, fax or write. Our guide specifications can be found in SweetSource®, Spec Data®, ARCAT/Spec Disk® or at www.daviscolors.com/specs.

For samples or additional information contact:
Davis Colors: Setting the Standard for Concrete Colors.
Tel: 800-356-4848
Fax: 323-299-1063
www.daviscolors.com

Mixing Guide: Use the same pigment-to-cement ratio, type and brand of cement and aggregates throughout project. Changes in concrete and aggregate color affect take.

Keep slump less than 5” (12.5 cm) and water content consistent. High water content causes concrete to appear pale or “faded.” If higher slump is required, use a water reducing admixture instead of added water.

Calcium Chloride set-accelerator causes discoloration. Do not use with color.

Specify air content of 1% to 5% for improved workability and long term durability in freeze/thaw climates.

Schedule loads for consistent mix times. Deliver and discharge in less than 1/2 hour. Clean mixer thoroughly before color change overs.

Concrete color number and weight in Mix-Ready® bag (or combination of bags) is the same required by mix design. Wet mix with 1/2 to 2/3 total batch water. Turn in Mix-Ready® bags and mix at changing speed for at least one minute. Add cement, aggregate and remaining batch water. Continue mixing at changing speed for at least 5 minutes (7 minutes for pea-gravel mixes).

Noise: In mixes with small aggregate or batches with short mixing duration, Mix-Ready® bags may not completely disintegrate. In sand-blasted or exposed aggregate finishes, use small bag sizes (2 lb. minimum) or open bag and pour color normally.

The Chameleon® is a computer-controlled color dosing system for Ready Mix operators exclusively from Davis. It improves color accuracy and availability. Chameleon® dose rates differ from the rates on front of this card. For more information, go to www.daviscolors.com/chameleon.

Contractor’s Guide: Prepare a self-leveling subgrade. Add a 2 to 3 inch (50 to 75 mm) layer of sand, gravel or crushed stone. Uniformly compact the subgrade and moisture evenly, leaving no puddles, standing water, air, mud or muddy areas. If super barrier is used, overlap sheets and tape over holes in barrier. Place a 1” (25mm) layer of granular self-draining compatible fill over the barrier to minimize through craking.

Position forms for uniform slab thickness. Follow American Concrete Institute standards for reinforcement and joint placement to control cracking.

Allow ample time and manpower for placement and finish work. Finish early and with care.

Begin troweling when water evaporates. Leave or hand troweling and edging causes “burns” or dark spots.

Water added at job-site to mix or pumps will cause color to pale. Keep additions to a minimum and consistent among loads. Don’t finish tools or brooms or grind water on the surface.

Do not sprinkle pigment or cement onto the surface.

Rinse, dry broom, pattern stamped or rough-troweled usually have more even color than smooth-refinished finishes.


Do not use plastic sheets, water curing or curing products which discolor. Wood and other objects left on curing concrete cause discoloration.

Efflorescence is a white powdery substance that appears on concrete surfaces. A result of water evaporation, it is more noticeable on colored surfaces making them look faded or lighter in color when not cleaned off. Proper curing and protection against water penetration reduces tendency for efflorescence to occur. Remove with detergent or mild-acid cleaners formulated to remove efflorescence. Follow cleaner instructions and test in a small area to make sure cleaner will not etch or discolor the surface. Wear rubber gloves and eye protection.
Colors for Concrete

Davis Colors™ mix into any concrete, transforming it into a new design feature for building and paving projects or to enhance appearance around the home. Davis Colors™ are strong, durable and last as long as the concrete. There are bold and intense premium colors, standard colors that add less than a dollar per square foot, and subtle shades for any budget.

This pdf color card is just for ideas. If you choose a color by viewing this on your PC or from a printout of the pdf file, your colored concrete may be a big surprise. Please make your selection from our printed color card, hard samples or job site test.

SANDSTONE 5237  CANYON 160  SANTA FE 1117  MOCHA 6058  RUSTIC BROWN 6058

SAN DIEGO BUFF 5237  SUNSET ROSE 160  BAJA RED 160  TERRA COTTA 10134  SPANISH GOLD 5084

SOUTHERN BLUSH 10134  SALMON 10134  MESA BUFF 5447  PALOMINO 5447  FLAGSTONE BROWN 641

MESA BUFF 5447  PEWTER 860  COBBLESTONE 860  GRAPHITE 8084*  WILLow GREEN 5376  GREEN SLATE 3685

*Caution: 8084 is not compatible with air-entraining admixtures. See back page for more information.

Concrete Base Color

The natural base color of concrete, finishing and curing method determine final color. This card simulates lab samples made with a light broom finish from Type II gray cement, sand and water at 0.56 water/cement ratio for a 4” slump (see uncolored reference at left). Different cements, sand, rock, mixing and job-site conditions and contractor technique can alter color from this card. Concrete is produced from natural materials. Surface variation common to uncolored concrete can impact colored concrete.
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As the leading producer of colors for concrete since 1952, we offer the widest spectrum available.

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May 2009 Notice- All color swatches were adjusted to lighter base cement shade. These swatches differ from previous color card.
Uses: Davis Colors are used in cast-in-place, slab-on-grade, precast, tilt-up and decorative concrete; shotcrete, mortar, concrete masonry units, pavers, retaining wall units and masonry. They can also be used to color cast stone, plaster, stucco and other cement-based construction materials. Designed for mix-in use only, they should not be spattered or dusted onto the concrete surface.

Ingredients: Pure, concentrated pigments made from high-quality metal oxides recycled from iron or refined from the earth and specially processed for mixing into concrete. Davis Colors comply with ASTM C309 for Pigments for Integrally Colored Concrete. They are lightfast, alkali-resistant, weather-resistant, durable and long lasting like concrete. Davis Colors are available in a wide spectrum of standard colors and can be custom formulated to match design requirements. Unlike other Davis Colors, Supra-Instant® black #8084 is a specially treated carbon black. Carbon black is the highest in tint strength and the most economical, but can fade if concrete is not sealed against water penetration. Sealing and periodic re-sealing can minimize this effect.

Packaging: Concrete suppliers use our Mix-Ready® disintegrating bags or Chameleon® bulk handling system. The Chameleon® is a computer-controlled automatic color dosing system used by concrete producers. Mix-Ready® bags are tossed into the mix without opening or pouring. They disintegrate under mixing action, releasing pigments to disperse uniformly leaving no bags to litter the environment.

ASTM C309 standards and is specially formulated for colored concrete and exposed aggregate finishes. Optional, thin-film sealer that’s tinted to match the shades on this Color Selector. When applied over colored concrete, mortar, concrete masonry units, pavers, retaining wall units and rooftiles. They can also be used economically, but can fade if concrete is not sealed against water penetration. Sealing and periodic re-sealing can minimize this effect.

Finishes: Paring and floors can be finished with pattern-stamped, broomed, troweled, exposed aggregate, salt-finished, sand-blasted, diamond polishing or any other visually appealing textures. Cast-in-place, precast and tilt-up structures can be textured with sand-blasting, bushhammering, grinding, polishing, special forms or form liners. The combinations and possibilities are endless. Here are just a few:

Curing & Sealing: W-1000 Clear® is a non-clouding, spray-on cure and sealer that meets or exceeds ASTM C939 standards and is specially formulated for colored concrete and exposed aggregate finishes. Other curing methods, such as water curing or plastic sheets cause discoloration. Color Seal® is an optional, thin-film sealer that’s tried to match the shades on this Color Selector. When applied over colored concrete or the W-1000 Cure, it provides a more uniform appearance.

Quality Tips: For best results, materials, curing, weather conditions and workmanship should be uniform throughout a project. Quality starts with the concrete mix, use a low water-content, high-performance mix design. When planning a project, budget for craftsmanship.

Contractor’s Guide: Prepare a 2-inch-thick slab. Add a 2 to 3 inch (50 to 75 mm) layer of sand, gravel or crushed stone. Uniformly compact the subgrade and prepare floor, leaving no puddles, standing water, ice, or muddy areas. If water barrier is used, overlap sheets and tape over holes in barrier. Place a 1” (25 mm) layer of granular self-draining fill over the barrier to minimize through-cracking. Position forms for uniform slab thickness. Follow American Concrete Institute standards for reinforcement and joint placement to control cracking. Proper curing and protection against water penetration is necessary for long-term durability in freeze/thaw climates. Use the same pigment-to-cement ratio, type and brand of cement and aggregates throughout the project. Changes in cement and aggregate colors affect shade. Keep slump less than 5” (12.5 cm) and water content consistent. High water content causes concrete to appear pale or “faded”. If higher slump is required, use a water reducing admixture instead of added water. Calcium Chloride set-accelerator causes discoloration. Do not use with color. Specify air content of 3% to 7% for improved workability and long term durability in freeze/thaw climates.

Schedule loads for consistent mix times. Deliver and discharge less than 1½ hours. Clean mixer thoroughly before color change overs. Use the same pigment-to-cement ratio, type and brand of cement and aggregates throughout the project. Changes in cement and aggregate colors affect shade. Keep slump less than 5” (12.5 cm) and water content consistent. High water content causes concrete to appear pale or “faded”. If higher slump is required, use a water reducing admixture instead of added water. Calcium Chloride set-accelerator causes discoloration. Do not use with color. Specify air content of 3% to 7% for improved workability and long term durability in freeze/thaw climates.

Curing: For samples or additional information contact:

Davis Colors: Setting the Standard for Concrete Colors.

Mix-Ready® bags: For more information, go to www.daviscolors.com/contractor.

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