



Select Grade™ Integral Concrete Colorant

Technical Data Sheet SG-1008

FOR PROFESSIONAL USE ONLY. Read all applicable and current product information for your project: Technical Data Sheet (TDS), Color Chart, Installation Guide, Safety Data Sheet (SDS). All information is available for download online at www.butterfieldcolor.com and at point of purchase.

MasterFormat™ Guide Specifications, and Butterfield Color® Architectural Details and Specifications are available for the specifier/designer. All information is available for download online at www.butterfieldcolor.com and at point of purchase.

1. Description: Select Grade™ Integral Concrete Colorant is an economical pre-measured pigment for integrally coloring ready mixed concrete and all manufactured concrete products during batching. Select Grade™ Integral Concrete Colorant is suitable for integrally colored concrete projects of all types: interior floors and exterior hardscapes, as well as, precast, tilt-up and cast-in-place applications. Conforming to ASTM Standard C979 (standard specification for pigments for integrally colored concrete), it is a blend of non-fading, synthetic iron oxides.

Select Grade™ Integral Concrete Colorant is available in 11 standard base colors. By varying the dose rate (bags/cubic yard), each base color can produce 4 different colors for a total of 44 colors. Select Grade™ integral colors produce a broad range of popular earth tone colors without an extensive inventory. Superior quality control during manufacturing and packaging help to ensure your jobs will have uniform color from load-to-load.

For truly unique and creative concrete installations, Select Grade™ Integral Concrete Colorant can be used with other Butterfield Color® products: Perma-Cast® Shake-on Color Hardener, Perma-Cast® Sierra Stain™, Butterfield Color® Stamping Tools, Perma-Cast® Antiquing Release, Butterfield Color® Clear Liquid Release, Select Grade™ Antiquing Release and Perma-Tique™ Antiquing Agent.

2. Limitations: The Select Grade™ Integral Concrete Colorant color chart approximates colors using medium gray cement and sealed with solvent based Clear Guard® Cure and Seal. Local materials, finishing techniques, texture, and method of curing and sealing will affect the final color. Utilize the same slump, cement, sand, and aggregates throughout project. Any deviations will affect the final color. When a base color is used at its lowest dose rate, 1 bag/2 cubic yards, mix design variations may produce obvious color variations. During cold weather, when an accelerator is needed, use a non-chloride accelerator. Never use calcium chloride.

3. Packaging: 11 standard base colors are available in pre-measured dissolving

bags. Each base color can create 4 different colors for a total of 44 colors.

3.1 Shelf Life: Select Grade™ Integral Concrete Colorant has an indefinite shelf life when stored in unopened bags and is not exposed to temperature extremes and moisture.

4. Mix Design: Concrete should have a minimum of 5-sacks of cement per cubic yard of concrete. Exterior concrete requiring freeze/thaw resistance should have a minimum of 6-sacks of cement per cubic yard of concrete. If cement substitutes such as fly ash or blast furnace slag are utilized, that mix should be used for all adjacent pours as it will have a slight effect on the color. Concrete must be free of reactive ingredients, and poured at a 4 in. (102 mm) slump or less. The slump needs to be consistent throughout the entire project. Consider the use of a retarder during hot weather. Never use calcium chloride accelerators. Select Grade™ Integral Concrete Colorant is compatible with most chemical admixtures and fibers. All concrete subject to freeze/thaw cycles should be properly air entrained (typically 5%-8%) as prescribed by the mix design.

Select Grade™ Integral Concrete Colorant is always consistent. Other variables can affect the appearance of concrete. Therefore, it is important that you discuss your project with your Ready Mix supplier. Utilize the same slump, cement, sand, and aggregates throughout project. Contact Butterfield Color® with any questions concerning admixtures and mix design.

5. Batching: A Select Grade™ Integral Concrete Colorant base color can be added to concrete in dosages ranging from 1 bag per 2 cubic yards of concrete up to 3 bags per 1 cubic yard of concrete. Verify color choice and the required number of bags before batching begins. Cut and remove the top portion of the bag, eliminating the overlapping seams at the top. Toss the remaining portion of the dissolving bag into the mixer. This eliminates the mess and inaccuracy associated with the handling of loose colorants. Do not use damaged bags that have lost material.

The mixer drum should be in good condi-

tion with little or no buildup on fins. One quarter (1/4) of the mixer volume is the minimum amount of concrete that should be batched to develop a consistent mix. Spin the drum in reverse until the load backs up to the top. Add bags of Select Grade™ Integral Concrete Colorant to the drum. Once added, ensure that any colorant retained on the fins is thoroughly mixed into the load by slowly reversing drum so that concrete makes contact with and removes colorant from fins. Rotate drum at optimal mixing speed as recommended by the mixer manufacturer for 100 revolutions. A longer mix time is recommended when working with a pea gravel mix design to ensure adequate break down of the bag.

6. Installing Colored Concrete Flatwork:

6.1 SUBGRADE: The sub grade should be carefully prepared and compacted using an approved gravel fill, such as CA-6. A minimum of 4 in. (102 mm) is recommended. Level the sub grade to ensure a uniform thickness of concrete during placing and finishing. The sub grade must be free of frost with no standing water. Prior to placing concrete, dampen the sub-base with water.

6.2 PLACING AND FINISHING: Once placing has begun, do not randomly add water to the mixer drum or to the surface of the colored concrete. This will create color variations and a strength loss. Water may be added to the drum before initial discharge to attain, but not to exceed, the specified slump. Once discharged, the specified slump must be maintained through out the installation, particularly for adjacent pours of concrete. Never retemper concrete that has started to set. Water reducing and plasticizing admixtures may be used with Select Grade™ Integral Concrete Colorant. Use of such admixtures may affect the finishing characteristics of the concrete.

After placing and initial bull floating, no further finishing should be performed until the bleed water has dissipated, after which final finishing can take place. Closing with a steel trowel can diminish the effectiveness of air entrainment at the surface and should be avoided where



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freeze/thaw is a concern. Texture all surfaces adequately and uniformly for slip resistance. For exterior installations apply a broom finish or swirl finish using a float. When broom finishing concrete, shake off any water that may be left on broom after rinsing, as it may cause discoloration. Finishing techniques must be consistent. Differing finishing techniques will change the appearance of the color.

6.3 CONTROL JOINTS: Random cracking of a concrete slab is minimized by the timely and correct placement of control joints. Control joints may be introduced during concrete placement with a groover, or after the concrete has reached initial set by power sawing. Each method should be evaluated prior to installation and should be incorporated into the pre-job mock-up. Refer to following The American Concrete Institute publications for additional information: Guide for Concrete Floor and Slab Construction (ACI 302.1R), Joints in Concrete Construction (ACI 224.3R).

7. Curing and Sealing: Never use plastic sheeting or water spray to cure colored concrete, as it will mottle and streak the surface. Use liquid, membrane-forming compounds such as Clear Guard® Cure and Seal, Clear Guard® PRO 350® Cure and Seal, or Clear Guard® H₂O Water-Based Cure and Seal. Read Technical Data Sheets before using these products. All information is available for download online at www.butterfieldcolor.com and at point of purchase. Do not over apply. To avoid discoloration do not store objects on colored concrete for at least seven days after the pour. Cured and sealed surfaces may become slippery when wet if the concrete surface is not adequately finished for slip resistance. Incorporate a slip resistant additive into the sealer for additional slip resistance. Interior floors may be maintained with a slip resistant wax.

8. Maintenance: Periodically inspect sealed surfaces sealed for wear or damage, and reseal as needed. Avoid exposing sealed surfaces to strong solvents and

corrosives. Clean motor oil and gasoline spills as soon as possible. Avoid dragging, dropping or placing sharp objects on sealed surfaces. Prior to resealing, surfaces must be thoroughly cleaned, dry, and free from residual cleaning products or any condition that will affect adhesion. Do not over apply sealer. A slip resistant additive must be utilized when resealing colored concrete.

9. Installing Vertical Colored Concrete: Unless a special form liner has been specified, use a clean epoxy coated or urethane coated plywood form. Use non-leaking snap-tie cones. Clean and then tape or seal all joints to prevent leakage. Any bleed water leaking along joints may discolor wall. Choose a release agent that does not discolor concrete. Do not use metal form ties or chairs within 1.5 in. (38 mm) from the surface.

Keep the slump consistent form load-to-load. Do not add water after a portion of the load has been discharged. Never re-temper concrete that has started to set. Cast all walls in a continuous pour to their full height between engineered horizontal joints. When possible, use both external and internal vibrators. Vibrate the concrete in lifts up to two feet or less. Do not touch the interior face of form with vibrator. Perform vibration long enough to consolidate concrete and dislodge entrapped air. Do not over vibrate concrete causing segregation of the mix.

Strip all forms when the concrete is the same age. Lightly sandblast all surfaces sufficiently to remove form marks and form release residue. Note: Excessive sandblasting may expose sand and aggregates, substantially changing the color of the finished wall.

10. Quality Control: Cast a job site sample at least 21 days prior to the installation for approval of color and finish. Utilize all materials, tools, and techniques from the actual job in the mock-up. Consistent batching, pouring, finishing, curing,

sealing, and preparation techniques, will ensure the uniformity of architectural concrete. Verify adequate wet and dry slip resistance. Verify maintenance requirements. Site visits by Butterfield Color, Inc. Personnel are for making technical recommendations only and not for supervising or providing quality control.

WARNING: USE WITH ADEQUATE VENTILATION. WHEN DUSTY CONDITIONS OCCUR, USE PROTECTIVE GLASSES, GLOVES AND DUST MASK (NIOSH/MSHA TC-21C APPROVED). IMMEDIATELY AFTER USE WASH ANY AREA OF EXPOSED SKIN. IF CONTACT IS MADE WITH EYES FLUSH THOROUGHLY WITH WATER. DO NOT RUB. MOVE TO FRESH AIR IF INHALED. IF SYMPTOMS DEVELOP OR PERSIST, OR IF INGESTED, SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION. READ SAFETY DATA SHEET BEFORE HANDLING OR USE. ALL INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD ONLINE AT WWW.BUTTERFIELDCOLOR.COM AND AT POINT OF PURCHASE. **KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN.**

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