



# Adding Pigments to Mortars

## TDS 108

### The **COLOR PIGMENT SELECTION:**

Pigments can be added to LATICRETE® & LATAPOXY® Mortars provided the pigments are sun-fast and weather resistant. They must also be certified by the supplier to be free of water, soluble salts and unaffected by portland cement or alkali.

Recommended pigments are mineral oxides: iron oxides (red, yellow, brown, and black); manganese dioxide (black, brown).

The actual percentage of pigment will vary depending upon the LATICRETE mortar and the pigment type, however, the amount of pigment must not exceed 10% by weight of the portland cement content of the mortar. The use of too much pigment will increase the water absorption, produce a dusty surface and generally weaken the mortar. **A test area should always be conducted prior to installation to confirm that product performance and appearance meet the requirements of the project.**

**CAUTION: NEVER USE CARBON BLACK OR LAMPBLACK PIGMENTS – THEY WILL PRODUCE A VERY WEAK, POROUS MORTAR.**

**CAUTION: TROWEL APPLIED, PIGMENTED FLOOR AND WALL COATINGS OFTEN SHOW SHADING.**

Area shading is typically caused by different rates of substrate absorption, sections being troweled more than others, temperature/humidity changes and other factors that determine the mortar cure rate. Without applying stain, sealers or wax to the coating surface, a completely uniform shade is very difficult to achieve.

To minimize area shading;

1. Mix floor and wall coating mortars with the minimum quantity of gauging liquid;
2. Coatings sprayed on walls will produce more uniform color than if applied by trowel;
3. Lighter or pastel colors show less variation than dark colors;
4. Using a LATICRETE Latex Additive helps lock in the color, reduces wash out, improves adhesion, ensures a better cure, and produces a water-resistant, non-dusting surface.

Note: The performance properties (e.g. shear bond strength, compressive strength, absorption rate, etc...) and final color of LATICRETE products incorporating pigments added in the field cannot be predicted. The physical properties of these products are dependent upon proper and consistent mix ratios, techniques, types of pigments used, and jobsite conditions. The use of color pigments in LATICRETE mortars means the sole and exclusive LATICRETE warranty, for the project, is the LATICRETE Product Warranty ([DS 230.13](#)) available at [www.laticrete.com](http://www.laticrete.com).

Technical Data Sheets are subject to change without notice. For latest revision, check our website at [www.laticrete.com](http://www.laticrete.com)  
TDS 108.doc R 22 August 2011



**LATICRETE INTERNATIONAL, INC.** ▪ 1 LATICRETE Park North ▪ Bethany, CT 06524-3423 USA  
800.243.4788 ▪ [support@laticrete.com](mailto:support@laticrete.com) ▪ [www.laticrete.com](http://www.laticrete.com)

©2011 LATICRETE INTERNATIONAL, INC. All trademarks shown are the intellectual properties of their respective owners.