

How to Apply Integral Color



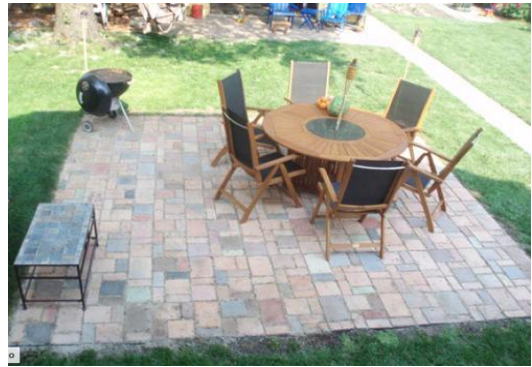
Direct Colors Concrete Pigment Color Charts are designed to provide a close approximation of what our customers can expect achieve in gray or white concrete. For custom pours such as countertop mixes, plaster, stucco, grout and other concrete-based products, when adjusted properly for specific job requirements, the colors vary within an acceptable range for the majority of our customers.

Direct Colors provides five online concrete pigment calculators to help customers determine how much pigment will be needed for their projects. The pigment required to achieve a specific color is based on the amount of cement in the mix rather than the total weight of the bag or batch. The project calculator tool is designed to calculate for truck pours, custom concrete batches, such as stucco, mortar or grout, 5000 psi countertop mixes and bags of ready mix concrete. Visit our online project calculator page before ordering to make sure you've measured correctly.

Truck Pours

Calculating the amount of pigment needed for truck pours is determined by:

- Concrete PSI
- Number of Yards to Pour
- Color Selection



Direct Colors Online Concrete Pigment Calculator makes adding color easy. To determine the amount of pigment needed per yard, select the correct concrete psi from the drop down menu, enter the number of yards and the pound rating (see diagram below) for the color you've chosen. The calculator will do the rest. Your ready mix company can provide you with the concrete strength or psi information. Remember to ask how many yards and truckloads of concrete will be used for the project to make sure the correct amount of pigment is used in each load.



Pigment
Number



Color Name

Pound Rating

Note: As concrete hardens, the color will appear to fade. This is a normal for colored concrete. Pour water on the surface to see and evaluate the true concrete color.



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Custom Batches (Grout, Stucco, Plaster, Countertops and Mortar):

Mixes for Grout, Stucco, Plaster, Countertops and Mortar contain varying amounts of Portland cement and may also include hydrated lime. When using the custom batch calculator, keep in mind that the weight of cement will vary by material and to correctly adjust the values accordingly. Only the weight of cement and lime are included in this calculation not the total weight of the mix. Most pre-mixed products have this information on the package. Once you've selected a color, use the online [custom batch calculator](#) to determine how much pigment to purchase.



Mixing Recommendations:

For truck pours, introduce the pigment into the truck at least 20 minutes prior to pouring. For best results, pigment should be added before the truck leaves the ready-mix plant for the job site. Discard the paper or plastic sacks after use. The amount of water and pigment added to each truck should be the same for the entire pour to ensure color uniformity.

For drum mixing, add 1/3 of the total water needed for the batch and start the mixer. Add all the pigment and allow to mix for 3-5 minutes. Slowly add the concrete mix to the mixer and add water as needed. The mixture should be uniform in color with no streaks before pouring.

For 5-gallon bucket mixes, use a birdcage or high-shear mud mixer paddle and drill motor on low-speed. Add 1/3 of the total water needed for the batch and all the pigment to the bucket. Stir with a paint stick to begin combining. Mix with the paddle for 3-5 minutes. Slowly add the concrete mix to the bucket and add water as needed. The mixture should be uniform in color with no streaks before pouring. To spray countertop or overlay mixes, add more water and/or water reducer according to batch size.



Note: Mixing Micro-Pigments

DCI micro-pigments, particularly the blue pigments, weigh considerably less than standard iron oxide-based pigments. To avoid streaking and pigment float out, the ingredients must be combined DRY before adding any liquid to the mixture.

