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 rail-ties. 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 sprayed or dusted onto the concrete surface.

Ingredients: Pure, concentrated pigments made of high-quality metal oxides recycled from iron or refined from the earth and specially processed for mixing into concrete. Davis Colors comply with the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) Quality Assurance Program for Pigment Coatings.

Mixing Guide: Use the same pigment-to-cement ratio, type and brand of cement and aggregates throughout the project. Changes in cement and aggregate color affect shade. Keep slump less than 5” (125 mm) 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-accelerates concrete discolouration; do not use with color.

Curing & Sealing: W-1000 ClearTM is a non-clouding, spray-on cure and sealer that meets or exceeds ASTM C979 standards and is specifically formulated for colored concrete and exposed aggregate finishes. Other curing methods, such as water curing or plastic sheets cause discolouration. Color Shift™ 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. The only known incompatibility is with calcium chloride set accelerator which causes blushing and discolouration. SiSupra-Instant® black #8084 reduces or negates the effect of air-entraining admixtures.

Contractor’s Guide: Prepare a dry-shot, dry-aggregate. Add a 2 to 5 inch (50 to 125 mm) layer of sand or crushed stone. Uniformly compact the substrate and moisture evenly, leaving no puddles, standing water, ice, snow, or muddy areas. If water barrier is used, overlap sheats and tape over holes or barriers. Brush a 1/4” (6.4 mm) layer of primer self-drying compatible film over the barrier to minimize fingerprinting. Paint walls, ceilings, and floors to strict grey. Before troweling, clean wet aggregates. Prior to application, thoroughly wet the entire application area.

For samples or additional information contact:
Davis Colors: Setting the Standard for Concrete Colors.
Tel: 800-356-4848
Fax: 323-269-1053
www.daviscolors.com
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.

Concrete Base Color

The natural base color of concrete, finishing and curing methods 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 can alter color from this card. Concrete is produced from natural materials. Surface variation common to uncolored concrete can impact colored concrete.

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.
Colors for Concrete

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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.

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As the leading producer of colors for concrete since 1952, we offer the widest spectrum available.

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

May 2009 Notice: All color swatches were adjusted to lighter base cement shades. These swatches differ from previous color card.
Uses: Davis Colors are used in cast-in-place, slab-on-grade, precast, tint-up and decorative concrete; shotcrete, motor, 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 spritzed or dusted on the concrete surface.

Ingredients: Pure, concentrated pigments made of high quality metal oxides recovered from iron or refineries from the earth and specially processed for mixing into concrete. Davis Colors comply with California Code of Regulations Title 22, Section 31970. These pigments are available in a wide spectrum of standard colors and can be custom formulated to meet 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 it can fade if concrete is not sealed against water penetration. Scaling and periodic re-sealing will 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 dispense uniformly leaving no bag to litter the environment.

Installation: Integritly colored concrete is installed the same way as high-quality uncolored concrete. Choose a color on the inside of the 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 fully cured job-site test panel. Dry color dose rates range from 1/2 to 7 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 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 blushing and discoloration. Supra-Instant® black #8084 reduces or negates the effect of air entraining admixtures.

Mixing Guide: Use the same pigment-to-cement ratio, type and brand of cement and aggregates throughout your project. Changes in cement and aggregate color 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 water reducing admixtures instead of added water.

Done: Use color set-accelerators cause discoloration. Do not use with color.

Specifying: Specify air content of 5% to 7% for improved workability and long term durability in freeze/thaw climates. Schedule lifts for consistent mix times. Deliver and discharge in less than 1/2 hour. Then mixer thoroughly between color change overs.

Curing & Sealing: 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 dispense uniformly leaving no bag to litter the environment. Dry color dose rates range from 1/2 to 7 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 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 blushing and discoloration. Supra-Instant® black #8084 reduces or negates the effect of air entraining admixtures.

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.

In addition to the uses described above, Davis Colors are also used in Walls & other objects left on curing concrete cause discoloration. Influences are 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.

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