



# Integrally Colored Concrete Best Practices

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#### **Raw Material**

- **☐** Synthetic Iron Oxides
- □ Natural Oxides
- **☐** Organic Pigments



# **Synthetic Iron Oxides**

- Most Prevalent in the Industry
- Processing of Metallic Iron with Nitrobenzene
- High Tint Strength
- UV Stable
- Weather Stable
- Insoluble in Water





- Carbon Black, Phthalo Blues and Greens
- High Tint Strength
- NOT Weather Safe. Susceptible To Fading
- May Affect Air Entrainment

#### **Available in Three Basic Forms**

Powder

Liquid

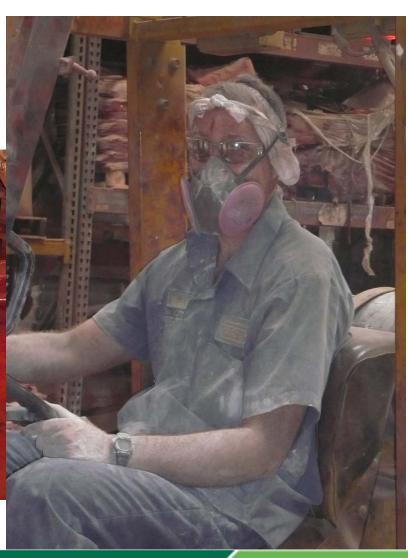
Granular





# **Powder**



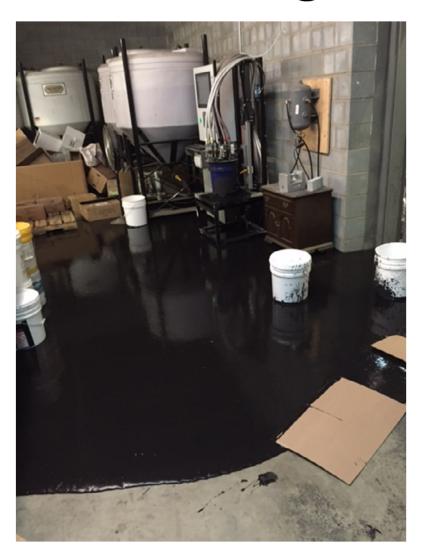


Liquid



# What is Integral Color Liquid







Granular



#### **Granular Pigment ADVANTAGES**

**Lower Dosage than Liquid** 

No Shelf Life

**No Product Settling** 

No Recycling Required

**Spills Clean Easily- No Mess** 

No Freezing

You Don't Pay for Water

**Free Flowing Grains** 

Low/No Dust

**Pure Synthetic Iron Oxides- No Fillers** 





#### Loading

- Portland is Measured in 94 lb "Sacks"
- Also Designated as "Per 100 Weight" or as a Percentage
- Integral Loading Refers to How Much Integral per Sack
- Whether Powder is Sold by the Pound or by the Yard, Cement
   Content is the Determining Factor

- Pigment Particles are 10 Times Finer Than Portland
- NOT Meant For Dry Shake Application



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- Pigment Particles are 10 Times Finer Than Portland
- NOT Meant For Dry Shake Application
- Colors the Portland Cement Only
- Can't Gauge Final Color by Dry Pigment
- Keep It Under 10% to Avoid Weakening Concrete
- After 6% or 7% Not Much of a Visual Change in Final Color



#### **ASTM C-979**

#### Sets Standard for Integral Pigments, Including

- UV Stability
- Alkali Resistance
- Wettability and Solubility
- Curing Stability
- Total Sulfates
- Affect on Setting of Concrete
- Affect on Compressive Strength of Concrete
- Color Match of Shipment

#### THE Key to a Good Job

Meaning the customer is happy enough for you to get paid Meaning you can use the customer for a referral

#### Educate The Consumer

This is not a paint or a coating You are dying a natural material with another natural material List the shortcomings as well as the benefits



Sell From Samples and Mock Ups



#### NOT Color Charts





**Use Same Raw Materials and Finish Techniques as the Project** 

Troweled Finish = More Inconsistent Looking Color and Highlights Imperfections



Photos, Photos, Photos (For Ideas NOT for Color Selection)

These 2 photos are of the same pile of concrete





Photos, Photos (For Ideas NOT for Color Selection)

These 2 jobs photos were taken the same day



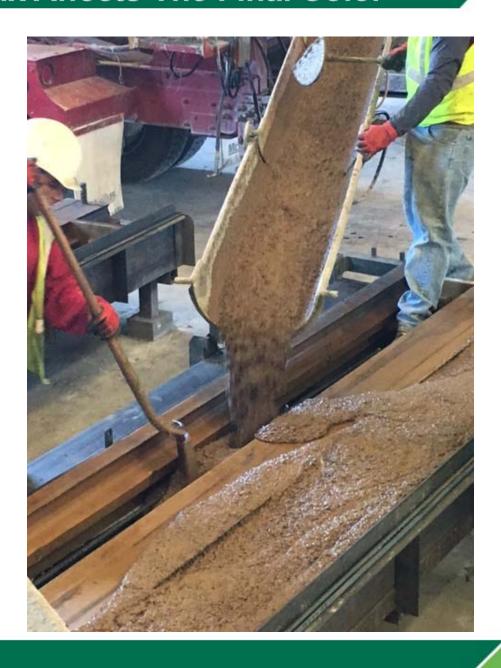


#### References and Referrals



The Look of Genuine Brick, Slate or Cobblestone in Your Choice of Colors

Reference Sheet



PORTLAND CEMENT 560 lbs

SAND 1120 lbs

AGGREGATE 1680 lbs

WATER 30-35 Gals

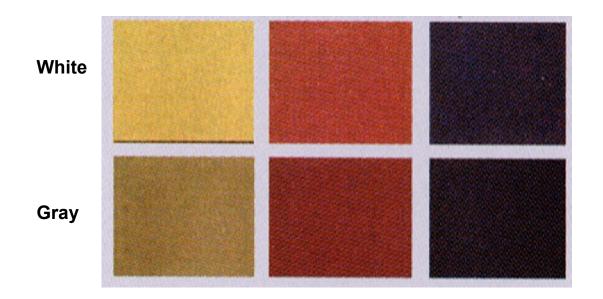
ADMIXTURE (or 2) TOTAL 3360 lbs

Integral Color will typically weigh between 6 to 36 pounds...BY FAR the smallest ingredient.

# Doesn't it make sense that ALL those other ingredients have a dramatic bearing on the final color?



# CEMENT COLOR White vs Gray





#### **CEMENT COLOR**

#### White vs Gray

**All With Gray Cement** 

The Euclid Chemical Company Color-Crete™ Powder & Liquid Integral Color for Concrete Phoenix Ten CC575/1\* Sand Buff CC725/2\* Desert Ten CC275/4\* Autumn Brown CC050/5\* Cocoa CC177/6 Brick Red CC100/4 ★ Tahoe Red CC850/5 Cordova CC200/4 Sedona CC750/2 Tierra CC885/2 Specialty Colors Liquid formula for colors below require additional pigment as indicated Sun Buff CC840/6\* Pewter CC560/4\* Euro Slate CC290/3 Slate CC785/3
Requires White Pigment Requires Green Pigment Requires Green Pigment CHART CC-35 1611 Gunn Hwy. Odessa, Fl. 33556 813-886-8811 800-752-4626

#### **Some with White Cement**



# **CEMENT COLOR Gray vs Gray**



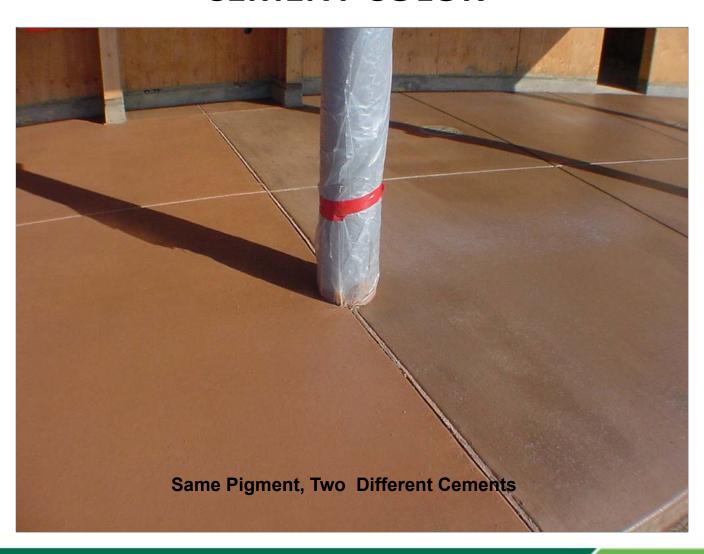


**Lots of Different Shades of Gray Portland** 

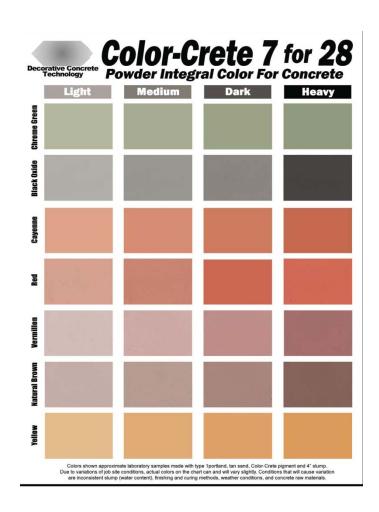
# **CEMENT COLOR Gray vs Gray**



### **CEMENT COLOR**



#### **CEMENT CONTENT**





## **ADMIXTURES**



#### **ADMIXTURES**

Air Entraining	Normally Lighter
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- □ Plasticizer Initially Darker (reduced affects Later)
- □ Accelerator (NO Calcium Chloride) Darker
- □ Water Repellant Possibly Darker

#### **ADMIXTURES**

#### No Calcium Chloride Based Accelerators

Most Commonly Available
Least Expensive
Decreases Set Time
Increases High Early Strength
BUT, Will Leave a Blotchy, Hazy Surface

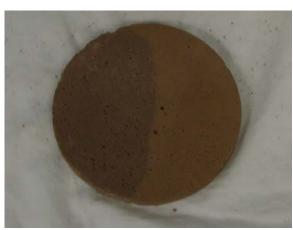
**Use Non Calcium Chloride Accelerators** 



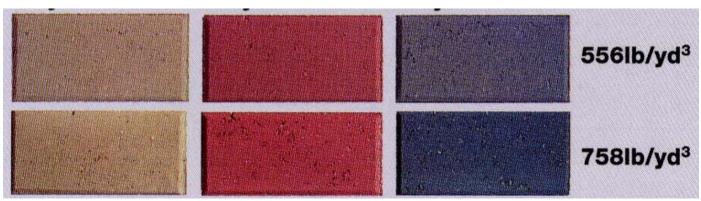
## **ADMIXTURES**

# Pozzolans- Portland Substitutes ie. Fly Ash and Slag





## **CEMENT CONTENT**





#### **AGGREGATES**





- Largest Part of The Concrete Mix
- Initial Influence but Greater Influence as the Slab Weathers

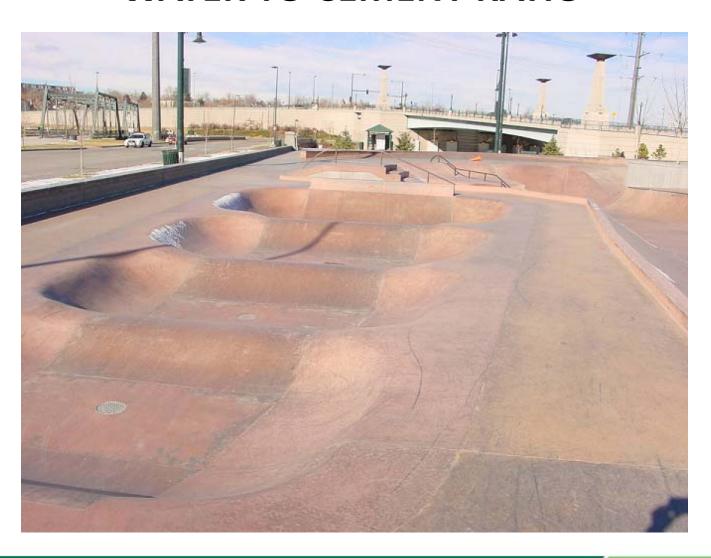
#### WATER TO CEMENT RATIO

- Most Chart Colors/Samples Produced at 4" Slump
- Choose Lowest Possible Slump (4"-5")
- If Higher Slump Needed For Placement, Use Plasticizer
- Consider Moisture in Raw Materials
- More Water = Lighter Color

Color Concentration
Bleed Water Rises and Leaves Larger Pores/Capillaries
Resulting in Lighter Looking Surface

Don't Add Water at the Job Site. If You Do- Be Consistent

## **WATER TO CEMENT RATIO**



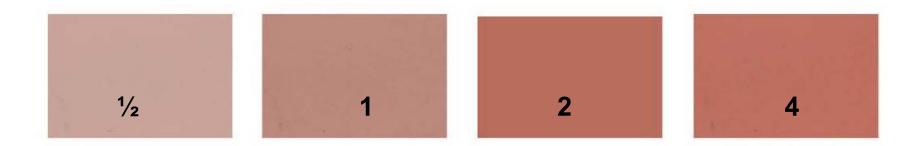
## **WATER TO CEMENT RATIO**



### Question??

# At What Loading Will the Mix Components Have More Influence?

**High or Low?** 



#### **Best Practices**

- Mock Ups Should Be at Least 3 Yards
- Use Same Raws as Will be Used in Final Project
- Use Minimum Cement Content of 470 lbs/Yard
- Use 100% Portland. If Pozzolans Used, Be Consistent
- Do Not Exceed 5" Slump
- At The Plant, Add Pigment to the Head Water
- At the Job Site, Add Color Into Mix (Avoid Fins). Mix 8 to 12
   Mins, Check For Ribboning

#### **Best Practices**

- If Sand Blasting or Exposing Agg, Cut Pigment Bag
   Open and Pour Color Into Truck
- Also Short Mix Time or Small Aggregate May Not Completely Disintegrate Bags
- If Using Liquid Color at Job Site, Use Same
   Amount of Rinse Water in Each Bucket
- Use No Calcium Chloride in Mix
- Keep Mix Time Consistent

### **Conclusions**

# With a Little Care and Attention to Detail, You Will End Up with a Close Match



## **Conclusions**

However, If You Just Roll The Dice, You Will Probably End Up With...



# **Job Site Prep**

## **Grade Land So Water Will Drain Away From Slab**



## **Job Site Prep**

Place Concrete Over Uniformly Graded Compacted Subgrade/Sub Base (Sand, Gravel, Crushed Stone)



# **Job Site Prep**

## **Dampen Sub Base**





## **Job Site Prep**

# Don't Pour Over Mud, Standing Water, Frost, or Ice





## **Job Site Prep**

#### **Set Forms to Achieve Uniform Slab Thickness**





# **Job Site Prep**

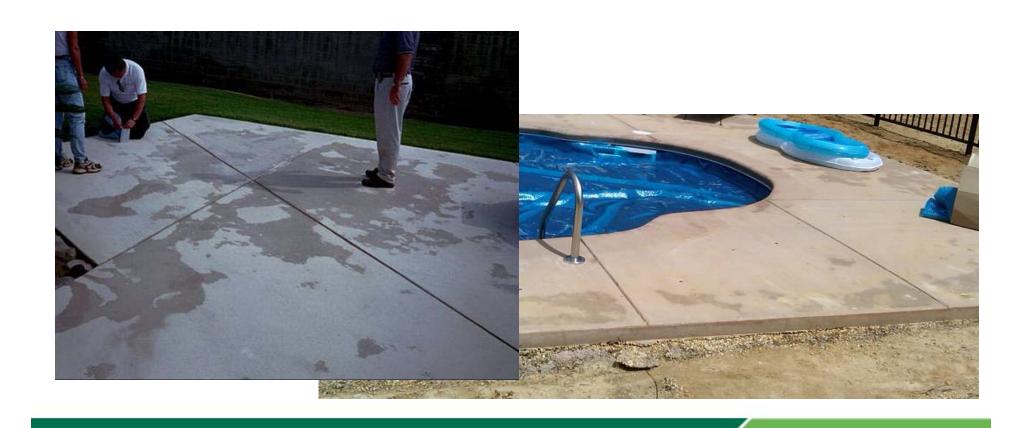
## **Turn Off Sprinklers**





## **Job Site Prep**

## **Improper Prep Can Lead To Disaster**



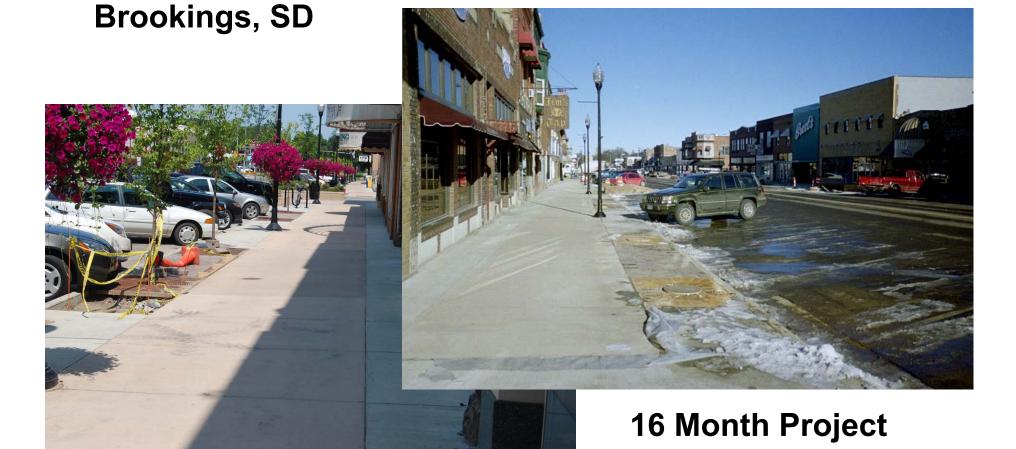
#### **How Weather Affects The Final Color**

#### Weather

- Temperature Affects Cure Time
- Temperature Affects Water Required to Maintain
   Consistent Slump
- Temperature Affects Size and Shape of Calcium
   Silicate Crystals During Hydration
  - Higher Temp = More Irregular and Larger Crystals
  - = More Porous Concrete
  - = Greater Light Scattering Across Surface
  - = Lighter Looking Color

#### **How Weather Affects The Final Color**

### Weather



#### **How Weather Affects The Final Color**

#### Weather

- Try To Place During Consistent Weather
- 60 to 80 Degrees is Perfect
- Schedule to Avoid Exposure to Hot Sun Until Curing Materials Are Applied
- Avoid Windy Conditions
- No Rain, Snow, or Sub Freezing Temps

# INTEGRALLY COLORED CONCRETE BEST PRACTICES

**RECAP** 

**Be Consistent** 

**Be Detailed** 



## **QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS ??**



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