INTERSTAR
Pigments, Admixtures & Fibers

MORTAR COLORS

Concentrated powdered mortar colors

Instruction Sheet

Pigments

COLORING METHOD

Step 1. Make sure that the sand is dry before mixing a batch of colored mortar. Wet sand requires a reduction of mixing water.

Step 2. Follow the proportions for color (see coverage guidelines), cement, sand and all other mix ingredients to prevent color variations in the finished product.

Step 3. Load & mix 3/4 of the water, 1/3 of the sand, masonry cement or Portland, lime mixture and mortar color to the mortar mix.

Step 4. Slowly add the balance of sand and water, running the mixer for 5 minutes or more, until a uniform color and desired workability is achieved.

Caution: There is often a tendency to retemper the mortar towards the end of the batch or on the last mortar board. Retempering must be avoided because any additional water will lighten the color and cause variations in the masonry. Water consistency should be maintained throughout the project.

COVERAGE GUIDELINES

Masonry Cement					
Type N, S or M		1 Bag (70-80 lbs) Masonry Cement Type 1, ASTM C91		3 c.ft. Sand ASTM C144	1 Bag Interstar Pigments
Portland Cement					
Type N 750psi		1 Bag (94 lbs) Portland Cement ASTM C150	1 Bag (50 lbs) Hydrated Lime ASTM C207	6 c.ft. Sand ASTM C144	2 Bags Interstar Pigments
Type S 1 800psi	**Option 1**	2 Bags (94 lbs) Portland Cement ASTM C150	1 Bag (50 lbs) Hydrated Lime ASTM C207	9 c.ft. Sand ASTM C144	3 Bags Interstar Pigments
	Option 2	1 Bag (94 lbs) Portland Cement ASTM C150	2 Bags (70 – 80 lbs) Masonry CemenT Type 1 ASTM C91	9 c.ft. Sand ASTM C144	3 Bags Interstar Pigments
Type M 2500psi	**Option 1**	2 Bags (94 lbs) Portland Cement ASTM C150	25 lbs Hydrated Lime ASTM C207	6 c.ft. Sand ASTM C144	3 Bags Interstar Pigments
	Option 2	1 Bag (94 lbs) Portland Cement ASTM C150	1 Bag (66 lbs) Masonry CemenT Type 1 ASTM C91	6 c.ft. Sand ASTM C144	2 Bags Interstar Pigments
Type O 350psi		1 Bag (94 lbs) Portland Cement ASTM C150	2 Bags (50 lbs) Hydrated Lime ASTM C207	9 c.ft. Sand ASTM C144	3 Bags Interstar Pigments

COVERAGE:

A bag of Type N masonry cement and a bag of Interstar mortar color will lay approximately 150 to 200 bricks.

Note: Mortars made with Types M or S masonry cement may require more pigment in order to obtain the same degree of color as our samples.

FINISHING

The procedure used in the final finishing of colored mortar joints is very important. To ensure color consistent mortar joints, the following steps should ALWAYS be taken:

- Mortar joints should ONLY be tooled when the mortar reaches a "thumb print" consistency.
- Over-tooling mortar joints may "burn" or otherwise darken their appearance.
- Tooling mortar joints too soon can create a "smear" on the surface of the joint resulting in a lighter shade of color.

PRECAUTIONS

During construction, the masonry should be kept dry by covering it with a strong waterproof tarp at the end of each day.

CLEANING

Stains and efflorescence should be cleaned using an acid-based cleaning agent. Products containing Hydrochloric acid should not be used.

- In the event cleaning is required to remove masonry stains and efflorescence, the cleaning operation should be undertaken after the colored mortar has sufficiently cured, generally 7 - 14 days after the masonry installation.
- A commercially prepared proprietary masonry cleaner using an acid-based cleaning agent should be applied at the weakest concentration recommended; follow manufacturer's suggested dilution concentration to provide the best results.
- Cleaning too quickly or using muriatic acid, hydrochloric acid or a highly concentrated masonry cleaner will cause a degradation of the surface mortar with the consequential release of color pigments from their masonry bond. This results in a porous exposed sand surface with a lighter colored mortar joint.
- Insufficient or irregular washing during cleaning can produce streaky or blotchy areas in the masonry. A thorough wash down with water is important to remove all cleaning agents.

Note: The cause of efflorescence has been linked to soluble salts present in the masonry materials and water which migrates to the surface primarily during the curing process.

Interstar's Polystar Mortar Admix can be used to minimize minor surface blemishes and efflorescence. See application instructions on container or specific data sheets for further information.

LIMITATION

The optimal dosage of pigment suggested varies between 2% to 7%, based on the total weight of cementitious materials. A dosage of 10% of pigment based on the total weight of cementitious materials is the saturation point for pigment coloration. If the percentage of pigment is over 10% of the total weight of cementitious materials, there will be no benefits and it can affect the results considerably. In addition, if the percentage is lower than 1% of the total weight of cementitious materials, the coloration will be uneven and will affect the results.

WARRANTY

The limit of liability of this company shall be the purchase price paid by the user or buyer for the quantity of the Interstar product involved. See Interstar's Warranty for complete details.

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