

PCA P3

Impact of Paint Color

1. Scope

- 1.1 The purpose of this Standard is to advise that the number and placement of paint colors and color ranges impact project costs.
- 1.2 It is not the intent of this Standard to limit the number and placement of colors on a particular project.
- 1.3 This document describes and defines special finishes.

2. Significance and Use

- 2.1 The number and placement by substrate and sheen of paint colors and color ranges affect the Owner and Painting Contractor's costs in the performance of a project. As the number and placement of paint colors increase, labor productivity decreases. As paint colors deepen, application and additional material costs increase.
- 2.2 The number and placement of paint colors and color ranges should be indicated in the project bid documents, and ultimately in the contract documents.
- 2.3 When the number and placement of paint colors and color ranges are not designated in the bid documents, the Painting Contractor has a frame of reference.

3. Definitions and Trade Terms

- 3.1 Definitions and Trade Terms see P9.

4. Reference Documents and Standards

- 4.1 Reference Documents and Standards see P9.

5. Standard Specification

- 5.1 The Number and Placement of Interior Paint Colors, unless specified otherwise.
 - 5.1.1 Color Level I: One paint color shall be selected for all interior painted surfaces of the entire project.

- 5.1.2** Color Level II: No more than two interior paint colors shall be selected for the entire project. Only one paint color will be selected for the interior painted surfaces of any one room or area. The exact placement of the colors will be clearly specified in the bid documents, and ultimately in the contract documents.
- 5.1.3** Color Level III: Three or more paint colors shall be selected for the interior painted surface of any one room or area. No more than one paint color will be selected for any particular surface. The exact placement of the colors will be clearly specified in the bid documents, and ultimately in the contract documents.
- 5.1.4** Color Level IV: The selection of unlimited paint colors for interior painted surfaces. The placement of colors, the type and placement of special finishes will be clearly specified in the bid documents, and ultimately in the contract documents.
- 5.2** The Number and Placement of Exterior Paint Colors, unless specified otherwise.
- 5.2.1** Color Level I: One paint color shall be selected for all exterior painted surfaces of any structure or building.
- 5.2.2** Color Level II: No more than two exterior paint colors shall be selected for any structure or building. No more than one paint color will be selected for any particular surface. The exact placement of the colors will be clearly specified in the bid documents, and ultimately in the contract documents.
- 5.2.3** Color Level III: Three or more paint colors shall be selected for any structure or building. No more than one paint color will be selected for any particular surface. The exact placement of colors will be clearly specified in the bid documents, and ultimately in the contract documents.
- 5.2.4** Color Level IV: The selection of unlimited paint colors for any structure or building. The placement of colors, the type and placement of special finishes will be clearly specified in the bid documents, and ultimately in the contract documents.
- 5.3** Color Ranges, unless specified otherwise.
- 5.3.1** Interior Color Levels I, II and III will only permit the use of paint colors normally designated as off-whites or pastels.

- 5.3.2** Exterior Color Levels I, II and III will only permit the use of paint colors normally designated as off-whites, pastels or mid-tones.
- 5.3.3** The use of white, mid-tone, deep-tone and ultra deep-tone paint colors for interior use and white, deep-tone and ultra deep-tone paint colors for exterior use are limited to Color Level IV only. The exact placement of these color ranges will be specified in the bid documents, and ultimately in the contract documents.

5.4 Special Finishes

- 5.4.1** The use of special finishes including, but not limited to, graphics, murals, faux finishes and multi-colored coatings is designated Color Level IV. The exact placement of special finishes will be specified in the bid documents, and ultimately in the contract documents.

5.5 Paint Coverage

- 5.5.1** Color selection must be consistent with the paint specifications for the project, structure or building. The paint specified must be available in the color range selected.
- 5.5.2** The colors selected in the materials specified must be capable of achieving full and uniform coverage when the number of coats specified has been applied, as described in the PCA Standards and in accordance with the manufacturer's printed instructions, or application procedures.

5.6 Special Circumstances

- 5.6.1** In the event that the number and placement of paint colors and color ranges are not designated in the bid documents, then the Painting Contractor will assume that Color Level II will be selected for both interior and exterior use.
- 5.6.2** In the event the same color of a different paint material or sheen level is to be used on the same surface or substrate, the exact placement of different paint material or gloss level shall be specified in the bid documents, and ultimately in the contract documents.

6. Comments

- 6.1 This Standard establishes a system for the designation of interior and exterior paint colors and color ranges.
- 6.2 This Standard establishes a guide for the preparation of a paint bid when paint colors and color ranges are not specified in the bidding documents.
- 6.3 This Standard clarifies multi-color projects.
- 6.4 This Standard clarifies areas of responsibility. Improved communication reduces misunderstandings.
- 6.5 This Standard is a nationally recognized consensus document for the painting and coating industry.

7. Disclaimer of Liability

- 7.1 PCA does not warrant or assume any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of any of the information contained herein.