



Mortar Color

Mortar Color

Highly concentrated, requiring less pigment to create vibrant colors
Permanent, sunfast, and weather-resistant
Packaged in pre-weighted bags - easy, no mess
Pigments can be added to any mortar mix

FINISHING

The procedure used in the final finishing of colored mortar joints is **VERY** important. For optimal color consistency, the following measures should **ALWAYS** be taken:

- Mortar joints should **ONLY** be tooled when the mortar reaches a “thumb print” consistency.
- Do not over-tool the mortar joints. This may “burn” or otherwise darken their appearance.
- Do not tool mortar joints too soon. This can create a “smear” on the surface of the joint resulting in a lighter shade of color.

CAUTION: DO NOT RETEMPER. There is often a tendency to retemper the mortar towards the end of the batch or on the last mortar board. ANY additional water will lighten the color of the mortar, creating variations and uneven color in the masonry. The amount of water used in each batch must be the same throughout the entire project.

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

GUIDELINES

- We strongly recommend creating a mock-up to confirm the mortar color before construction begins.
- Use a qualified contractor with experience using colored mortar.
- Be sure to weigh **ALL** components (including water) of the mix precisely to prevent color variations between batches.
- Be sure the sand is dry before mixing a batch of colored mortar. Wet sand requires a reduction of water in the mix.
- Be sure to maintain consistent temperatures throughout the project because large variations in temperature will result in color differences.
- The ideal temperatures for using mortar are **between 60 °F and 80 °F (15 °C and 26 °C).**

EFFLORESCENCE

- Efflorescence is a white or colored film that can appear on any product containing cement, including mortar. **It is not caused by pigment**, but by naturally occurring salts and other water-soluble materials in the mortar coming to the surface.
- Moisture (used in the mix; caused by rain or condensation, etc.) causes the salts to dissolve into a solution that migrates to the surface. When the water evaporates, the salts are left, causing a film to appear.
- This film can be removed using proper cleaning methods.

CLEANING

Stains and efflorescence should only be cleaned with appropriate cleaning agents. Cleaning products containing hydrochloric acid should **NOT** be used.

Cleaning mortar too quickly or using muriatic acid, hydrochloric acid, or a highly concentrated masonry cleaner will cause the surface to degrade, releasing the pigments from their masonry bond. This results in a porous, exposed sand surface with a lighter colored mortar joint. Insufficient or irregular washing can create streaky or blotchy areas in the masonry. Wash thoroughly with water from top to bottom to remove all cleaning agents.

If cleaning is required to remove masonry stains or efflorescence, the process should be undertaken **ONLY** after the mortar has had time to cure sufficiently (usually 7–14 days after installation). For best results, a commercially prepared masonry cleaner should be applied at the weakest concentration recommended by the manufacturer. Follow the manufacturer’s instructions for dilution.

VERY IMPORTANT

Mortar color can be affected by many factors, including but not limited to:

- Amount of pigment integrated into the mix
- Type and brand of masonry cement
- Color of sand used
- Amount of water added
- Variations in ambient temperature
- Delay and finishing method
- Equipment and mixing

The samples shown in this color chart were developed in a controlled environment using light gray masonry cement and light brown sand. Mortar made with Type M or Type S masonry cement may require more pigment to obtain the same degree of color as the samples pictured in this chart.

IMPORTANT:

This color chart only provides an estimate of the final colors that can be obtained. It is intended to serve as a guideline for color selection and does not represent the exact colors that will be produced. We strongly recommend creating a mockup to confirm the mortar color before construction begins.

Please see Interstar’s warranty for complete details.



	1 bag	Azul Black CM-017	2 bags
	1 bag	Dark Mahogany CM-931	2 bags
	1 bag	Steel CM-007	2 bags
	1 bag	Raven CM-008	2 bags
	1 bag	Light Mahogany CM-923	2 bags
	1 bag	Cocoa CM-449	2 bags
	1 bag	Dark Chestnut CM-427	2 bags
	1 bag	Straw CM-417	2 bags
	1 bag	Mushroom CM-720	2 bags
	1 bag	Starlight CM-035	2 bags
	1 bag	Ivory CM-717	2 bags
	1 bag	Natural CM-328	2 bags
	1 bag	Dark Ocher CM-334	2 bags
	1 bag	Light Ocher CM-332	2 bags
	1 bag	Beige CM-339	2 bags
	1 bag	Deep Beige CM-343	2 bags
	1 bag	Peach CM-819	2 bags
	1 bag	Hazelnut CM-349	2 bags
	1 bag	Rose CM-225	2 bags
	1 bag	Latté CM-528	2 bags



Mortar Color Chart

	1 bag	Buckskin CM-233	2 bags
	1 bag	Chestnut CM-424	2 bags
	1 bag	Morocco Brown CM-168	2 bags
	1 bag	Light Chestnut CM-412	2 bags
	1 bag	Deep Berry CM-261	2 bags
	1 bag	Moka CM-281	2 bags
	1 bag	Burgundy CM-240	2 bags
	1 bag	Cherry Red CM-226	2 bags
	1 bag	Royal Red CM-251	2 bags
	1 bag	Deep Cherry CM-257	2 bags
	1 bag	Pink Moka CM-275	2 bags
	1 bag	Ruby CM-221	2 bags
	1 bag	Chocolate CM-400	2 bags
	1 bag	Brick Red CM-230	2 bags
	1 bag	Pumpkin CM-356	2 bags
	1 bag	Gingerbread CM-351	2 bags
	1 bag	Allspice CM-430	2 bags
	1 bag	Deep Emerald CM-631	2 bags
	1 bag	Gold CM-360	2 bags
	1 bag	Clay CM-220	2 bags

