

# Mortar Color

Mortar Color Chart



## Mortar Color

Highly concentrated, requiring less pigment to create vibrant colors  
Permanent, sun-fast and weather-resistant  
Packaged in premeasured bags for easy, clean use  
Pigments can be added to any mortar mix

### COVERAGE

One bag of Type N masonry cement and one bag of Interstar mortar color will lay from 150 to 200 standard bricks.

**NOTE:** 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.

### COLORING METHOD

**Step 1.** Be sure the sand is dry before mixing a batch of colored mortar. Wet sand requires a reduction of water in the mix.

**Step 2.** Precisely measure the color, cement, sand, and all other ingredients in the mix to prevent color variations between batches.

**Step 3.** Load and mix  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the water and  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the sand with the full amounts of cement, lime mixture and mortar color.

**Step 4.** Slowly add the remaining sand and water. Run the mixer for 5 minutes or more, until uniform color and desired workability are achieved.

**CAUTION: RETEMPERING MUST BE AVOIDED.** 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 an uneven color in the masonry. Water consistency must be maintained throughout the project.

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

### 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.

Please see Interstar's warranty for complete details.

### 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.

### LIMITATIONS

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

- Amount of pigment integrated into the mix
- Type and brand of masonry cement
- Color of the sand used
- Amount of water added
- Delay and finishing method
- Equipment and mixing
- Use of admixtures

The samples shown in this color chart were developed in a controlled environment using light gray masonry cement and light brown sand.

### PLEASE NOTE

Efflorescence (white residue) can occur with any cementitious product, including mortar. To reduce efflorescence and other surface blemishes, we recommend Interstar's Polystar Mortar Admixture. Please refer to the printed instructions or product data sheet for additional information.

### 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 that a mockup be made to confirm the mortar color before construction begins.





1 bag	Coal Black	2 bags
CM-015		
1 bag	Dark Mahogany	2 bags
CM-931		
1 bag	Steel	2 bags
CM-007		
1 bag	Raven	2 bags
CM-008		
1 bag	Light Mahogany	2 bags
CM-923		
1 bag	Cocoa	2 bags
CM-449		
1 bag	Dark Chestnut	2 bags
CM-427		
1 bag	Straw	2 bags
CM-417		
1 bag	Mushroom	2 bags
CM-720		
1 bag	Starlight	2 bags
CM-035		
1 bag	Ivory	2 bags
CM-717		
1 bag	Natural	2 bags
CM-328		
1 bag	Dark Ocher	2 bags
CM-334		
1 bag	Light Ocher	2 bags
CM-332		
1 bag	Beige	2 bags
CM-339		
1 bag	Deep Beige	2 bags
CM-343		
1 bag	Peach	2 bags
CM-819		
1 bag	Hazelnut	2 bags
CM-349		
1 bag	Rose	2 bags
CM-225		
1 bag	Latté	2 bags
CM-528		



### Mortar Color Chart

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

