

## Color Matching Joint Fillers and Repair Materials in Stained/Polished Concrete Floors

Many of our joint fillers and repair products are used in conjunction with polished or stained and polished concrete floors. This technical advisory is designed to help the installer determine the proper use of our products in these types of floors and to avoid potential issues.

### Selecting Colored Materials and Setting Expectations

The industry has come a long way from the days when "standard gray" was the only color selection for most joint fillers and concrete repair materials. Metzger/McGuire offers products in a broad range of colors for use in stained/polished concrete floors. Some of our products can be further enhanced in appearance by the addition of sand aggregates or other additives. *Note: No Metzger/McGuire product is designed to "accept" the color of a stain or dye.*

It is important to recognize and communicate to your end users that even well-matched colored materials do not typically have the ability to make joints, cracks or other surface defects "disappear" within the canvas of the floor. Even when a dead-on match is accomplished, the filler or repair product may exhibit differences in gloss or surface appearance as compared to the rest of a highly polished floor. Set realistic expectations of what can and cannot be done to mask repairs on a stained/polished concrete floor, and whenever possible demonstrate this through a mock-up exhibiting all filling or repair types on the actual project floor. Be certain that your mock-up is replicable and represents the typical expected standard on the project – not a masterpiece that takes so much time and care that it would be impractical to repeat the same quality across the entire floor canvas.

### Ideal Color Matched Product Selection

When selecting a pre-colored joint filler or repair product, color match to a finished mock-up on the actual project floor or a very close approximation. We recommend that the match be done using an actual cured sample of the Metzger/McGuire material you propose using – not a color chart printed from the website. We will gladly provide cured samples of our products at no charge for submittals or for matching purposes.

There will likely be times where more than one color appears to be a reasonable match for a given floor. The best color match is often subjective. Accordingly, we recommend that the final material color choice be selected and signed off on by a project authority, rather than the installation contractor. As a rule of thumb, when trying to choose between two colors that closely match a floor and uncertainty exists, the darker color is typically better.

### Less-than-Ideal Color Matching

When project timing does not allow for obtaining a cured product sample, there are other alternatives that can provide a reasonable degree of color accuracy.

Metzger/McGuire offers a pocket-sized **Color Selection Guide** with color swatches that very closely approximate our actual materials. An additional option is to use paint swatches from a major paint manufacturer to find a match and reporting the color to our customer service department. We keep an updated library of paint charts from most manufacturers and can assist you in selecting the closest matching color we offer.

When using a stain or a dye in your polished concrete floor, another valuable tool is our **Color Selector App**. The app can be found on our website and is designed so that you can enter the stain/dye system manufacturer's name and color name and the app will provide two or more Metzger/McGuire color matches to consider. These matches are selected by Metzger/McGuire's color lab using hard samples provided by stain/dye manufacturers and/or are based on data reported by contractors or our field technicians on past projects.

On existing floors where no stain or dye is to be used and no access is available for a true mock-up, we recommend at a minimum lightly grinding a small surface area and wetting it to get an approximation of what the finished concrete might look like after densification and polishing. Color matching without opening the surface can lead to very different results.



*Example of poor color match resulting from matching to the existing surface prior to initial grind.*

Metzger/McGuire has been producing colored joint fillers and surface repair materials for use in stained/polished concrete for more than 10 years and we are committed to the growth and success of the polished concrete industry. Please contact us anytime you need assistance in selecting the right products or color for your stained/polished concrete floor project.

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