



METALLIC COATINGS

TECHNICAL BULLETIN



Bringing the best to out customers.

Metallic coatings (aka: Micas, Pearlescent) are created by adding flakes to the paint. In a metallic coating the addition of flakes influences the final color appearance or color perception. The particle's shape and position in the cured coating are both factors relative to the final appearance. The position of the particles is determined by several factors in the coating application process including: particle shape and size, applicator roll configuration, roll speed, application pressure, and paint viscosity. For these reasons, some variation can be expected from lot to lot of metallic coatings.

In non-metallic coating applications, color is usually measured numerically with some type of Color Difference Meter (CDM). CDM's read color from light diffusion. In metallic coating applications, the metallic particles disrupt normal or consistent light diffusion, therefore CDM's are not typically used for metallic coatings. For this reason, metallics are controlled as "visual match only" to the customer approved color standard.

PLEASE NOTE

Directional Coating: Metallic coatings are regarded as a "directional coating." The coating color appearance will appear different when viewed from different angles. All material should be processed in a manner that will allow the exposed coated surfaces to be used in a consistent direction. On one side of metallic coated products, many end users find it helpful to have a directional arrow.

Inter-Mix of Suppliers: It is important not to inter-mix paint suppliers or paint lines when using metallic products. Due to all the coating application process variables, you will not get a consistent visual color match.

Lot to Lot Match: Even from the same supplier, material coated at one period of time may not match material coated at a different time. Manufacturers often contain the end product to one paint run to minimize the visual effects of the natural variation.



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