

# COLOURFASTNESS & EXTERIOR BENCHTOP USE OF DUPONT™ CORIAN® SOLID SURFACE

## INTRODUCTION

This bulletin provides an overview of one potential performance consideration when deciding if DuPont™ Corian® solid surface is appropriate for an exterior benchtop application. Corian® colour recommendations are based on testing performed at the Axalta Coating Systems Florida Weathering Laboratory. Preliminary assessments of new colours are made based on accelerated Weather-Ometer® testing performed in accordance with ASTM G155 and Florida exposure testing of comparable Corian® colours.

## OVERVIEW

Colour stability is often a primary concern when evaluating a material for exterior use; however, there are other performance factors that should also be considered. Many colours of Corian® solid surface exhibit good colour stability. All colours have low moisture absorption and resistance to stains, environmental pollutants, detergents, humidity and freeze-thaw conditions. Design flexibility, ease of fabrication, seamless appearance, thermoformability and durability make Corian® solid surface a versatile material. Corian® installations can be easily cleaned and/or sanded to restore their original appearances. Even graffiti can be removed through standard pressure washing with baking soda-based cleaning agents. All of these performance factors combined make Corian® solid surface an excellent choice for exterior applications.

Individual Corian® colours change differently upon prolonged exposure to outdoor weather conditions and may exhibit colour shifts which can be renewed with cleaning and/or sanding. This change is more evident in saturated, chromatic and dark colours and least evident in whites, lights and many of the earth tones. Ultimately, it is up to the end user to determine if these characteristics are acceptable for the desired application. Corian® solid surface has been tested according to industry standards that are used in part to help determine a product's suitability for exterior use.

## TESTING METHODS

Testing at the Axalta Coating Systems Florida Weathering Laboratory was performed in accordance with ASTM G7. Corian® panels were exposed facing south at 45° from the horizontal for a two year period. In some cases, preliminary colour assessments are made based on accelerated Weather-Ometer® testing performed in accordance with ASTM G155 and Florida exposure testing of comparable Corian® colours.

Accelerated Weather-Ometer® testing artificially reproduces and accelerates weathering effects that occur from exposure to direct sunlight and rain or dew using exposure to a xenon arc lamp and water. Colour changes for both tests are measured before and after the exposure period. All exposure testing protocols are performed on nominal half-inch gauge product. Corian® colours are grouped into three performance categories. These categories are based on projected 10-year colour change performance. Colour changes are measured in  $\Delta E_{ab}$  units.  $\Delta E_{ab}$  (the total colour difference) and its calculation are defined in ASTM D2244.

**Group 1** - Colour change of less than or equal to 5  $\Delta E_{ab}$  units in 10 years - good choices for exterior applications.

**Group 2** - Colour change of 5 to 15  $\Delta E_{ab}$  units in 10 years - good choices if some colour change is not objectionable.

**Group 3** - Colour change of greater than 15  $\Delta E_{ab}$  units in 10 years - potential choices if greater colour change is acceptable.

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### GROUP 1

Abalone	Elegant Gray
Antarctica	Everest
Arrowroot	Fossil
Aurora	Glacier Ice*
Basil	Glacier White
Bisque	Light Ash
Burled Beach	Linen
Cameo White	Oyster
Canvas	Rain Cloud
Cirrus White	Rice Paper
Clam Shell	Sahara
Clay	Savannah
Concrete	Silver Gray*
Deep Gray	Vanilla
Deep Night Sky	Venaro White
Designer White	Whitecap
Dove	

### GROUP 2

Beryl Blue	Platinum
Blooming Green	Sage Brush
Deep Anthracite	Silver Birch
Deep Black Quartz	Sorrel
Deep Nocturne	Tumbleweed
Natural Gray	Whisper
Pearl Gray	White Jasmine

### GROUP 3

Earth	Raffia
Grape Green	Serene Sage
Gravel	Sonora
Hot	Sun
Lava Rock*	Witch Hazel
Mandarin	
Pearl	

\*Preliminary colour assessment based on accelerated Weather-Ometer® testing performed in accordance with ASTM G155 and Florida exposure testing of comparable Corian® colours.

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Glacier White and Designer White display exceptional colourfastness properties. The projected  $\Delta E_{ab}$  is less than 2 units over 10 years.

DuPont™ Corian® solid surface materials used in an outdoor application are covered under the DuPont™ Corian® outdoor benchtop 10-Year Limited Warranty.

### REFERENCE STANDARDS

AAMA 2604, Voluntary Specification, Performance Requirements and Test Procedures for High Performing Organic Coatings on Aluminum Extrusions and Panels

ASTM B117, Standard Practice for Operating Salt Spray (Fog) Apparatus

ASTM C666/C666M, Standard Test Method for Resistance of Concrete to Rapid Freezing and Thawing

ASTM C756, Standard Test Method for Cleanability of Surface Finishes

ASTM D1308, Standard Test Method for Effect of Household Chemicals on Clear and Pigmented Organic Finishes

ASTM D2244, Standard Practice for Calculation of Colour Tolerances and Colour Differences from Instrumentally Measured Colour Coordinates

ASTM D2247, Standard Practice for Testing Water Resistance of Coatings in 100% Relative Humidity

ASTM D2248, Standard Practice for Detergent Resistance of Organic Finishes

ASTM D570, Standard Test Method for Water Absorption of Plastics

ASTM G7, Standard Practice for Atmospheric Environmental Exposure Testing of Nonmetallic Materials

ASTM G21, Standard Practice for Determining Resistance of Synthetic Polymeric Materials to Fungi

ASTM G85, Standard Practice for Modified Salt Spray (Fog) Testing

ASTM G155, Standard Practice for Operating Xenon Arc Light Apparatus for Exposure of Non-Metallic Materials

ISO 14021:2001, Environmental Labels and Declaration. Self-declared Environmental Claims (Type II Environmental Labeling)

ISSFA-2-01 (2007), Classification and Standards for Solid Surfacing Material

ISO 19712-2:2007, Plastics — Decorative solid surfacing materials — Part 2: Determination of properties — Sheet goods