

Technical Tip

Mixing and Boxing Stains & Topcoats

One of the more common stain problems we see is the result of inadequate mixing. It's easy to tell, the color on a wall goes from light to dark as the stain gets closer to the bottom of the pail with a corresponding increase in pigment concentration. Sorry to say, there is



Proper mixing is a must.

no “fix” if this occurs other than stripping the finish off and starting over again. This problem is easy

to avoid with proper mixing both before the product is used and occasionally during use.



Inadequately mixed stain applied to wall.

Another thing we recommend is to “box” containers as they get close to empty. When a container of stain gets down to about 1/4 full, you should thoroughly mix up the next container you plan to use and pour about 1/4 of it into the previous container, mix them together and then use the mixed stain to continue. Although we take great

strides to maintain consistency within and between manufactured lots, boxing containers ensures that there will be no noticeable color difference as you go from one container to the next.

Since our LIFELINE™ Advance Gloss and Satin and Acrylic Gloss and Satin topcoats are clear and colorless, some individuals think that they do not have to be mixed before application. They could not be more wrong! These products consist of several components that may stratify or separate in the container over time. Even though you may not be able to see them, they need to be mixed together for use and finished product consistency. Always stir the topcoat well before applying it and occasionally mix it again during use, especially if you are using a satin topcoat. The flattening agents contained in satin finishes have a tendency to settle and need to be dispersed uniformly throughout the product. Furthermore, since our topcoats are colorless it is not necessary to “box” containers.