

Touch-ups

Although Flex Bon paints are manufactured under tight controls and the parameters of quality control are substantially narrower than our competitors, it must be understood that touch-up problems can occur due to one or a combination of factors. The following is a list of common factors related to touch-ups:

- Absence of, or improperly primed substrate resulting in insufficient film. Symptoms would include lack of opacity, and dissimilarity in color and/or sheen. This is usually associated with new construction projects.
- As eluded to above, film build can affect the color if total opacity has not been achieved. Excessive film build can also result in sheen distortion, consequently distorting the perception of the color. Sight walls are another area where touch-ups have been performed and are noticeable. Sight walls are the areas which are adjacent to glass doors and windows. These areas typically will show a raised area of drywall repair and/or paint where a touch-up was performed. This is generally not an actual touch-up problem, as described previously, but an area that is almost impossible to touch-up without leaving a slight ridge. This is due to the excess build of repair material and/or paint film build. This area will be most noticeable when looking down the wall towards the light.
- Differences in lighting source, reflection, and refraction can also affect color perception. This is known as a metamerism. This is usually the case though when people compare a color chip to a wall or one painted wall to another.
- Dissimilar methods of application (spraying versus rolling, rolling versus brushing, etc.), like changes in film build, distort the profile of the coating and consequently the color can be perceived different.
- The higher the sheen of the product the easier it is to detect differences in film build and method of application (surface profile).
- Temperature can affect the cross-linking, coalescence, or curing process of the coating (dependent on type of coating). Differences in temperatures between application times can affect the process and the development of the color. Generally these differences are nominal.
- Store-to-store variances can be detected if dissimilar tinting equipment is used. The percentage of variance is usually greater when comparing auto-tints to manual tint machines. Auto-tints are more susceptible to a greater degree of "drift" in accuracy than manual machines. Also differences in type of shaker and duration of time on the shaker can affect color development. Again these final differences should be nominal.
- Batch-to-batch variances from the Flex Bon manufacturing facility are extremely tight. However, as a product sits, especially in marginally climate-controlled situations (such as job-sites and garages) some of its application characteristics (such as flow and leveling or viscosity) can be affected. Products that have already been tinted can be affected by the loss of wetting agents and can change. The longer paint sits, how well it is sealed, and type of material will affect the variance in color.
- The depth of color plays a part in variance. The darker the color the greater risk for variance and metamerism.
- A worst-case scenario is a smooth wall, with a dark, high sheen paint specified.

Most touch-up problems will become nominal as the paint fully dries and the light fixtures, window treatments and furnishings are added. Unfortunately, as mentioned above, any or certainly a combination of these factors and a number of other phenomenon can contribute to a touch-up problem. Considering the number of gallons Flex Bon Paints manufactures and distributes in a year, the reports of touch-ups are extremely minimal. This is a true testament to our quality control standards and store tinting procedures.

Tips to minimize touch-ups:

- Use appropriate primers when painting over previously unpainted surfaces.
- Suggest shaking up paints (or thoroughly stirring at minimum) prior to using. When a large project is to be performed the craftsman would also be suggested to intermix (also known as boxing) all the containers of similar color and product to create one consistent project batch.
- Try to maintain consistent film build and method of application whenever possible. If using an airless sprayer for the application of paint to new drywall, backrolling (immediately rolling over the area that has been sprayed) can improve opacity and create a surface profile more amenable to roller or brush touch-up. Backrolling should not be considered the second or finish coat of paint.
- Retain material from the project batch for future touch-up in a tightly sealed container.
- Pour-off small quantities needed for touch-up and thin 5 to 10% with appropriate solvent to minimize film build problems. Feather in the edges of the touch-up as well to avoid a hard edge of the paint film. The use of a cigar roller applied in a small random manner also minimizes any hard edges.