

Primer Discoloration Prevention

Although it is uncommon, MICA primers can turn a variety of colors due to exposure to certain metals, chemical contaminants, oxidation, overtreatment, and the use of some solvents and inks. The following information is meant to help you prevent primer discoloration. If your primer is already discolored, we encourage you to talk to your Mica Technical Sales Representative right away so that s/he can diagnose and troubleshoot the situation promptly and correctly.

Eliminate Exposure to Metals

Exposure to certain metals can cause primers to change color. To prevent metal contamination, we recommend inspecting your equipment and swapping any parts in question to plastic or high-quality stainless steel. We also suggest you refrain from using certain low-grade solvents, as some of them contain iron or other metals that can taint the primer.

Use Small Batches of Primer

Oxidation, overtreatment of films from corona, and certain slip additives and chemical contaminants are other common causes of primer discoloration. These can cause weakened bond strengths or other adhesion issues. We recommended running smaller batches of primer to reduce waste when the primer becomes contaminated and needs replacing. How much contamination can be tolerated before bonds are unacceptable must be determined by testing against the required specifications.

Other Tips

Please keep in mind that there are other reasons primer could change color. For example, if too much primer is being applied, inks could be rewetted and lift off the substrate, thus contaminating the primer. Discolored primer is not always a sure indicator that the primer is unusable. If you notice your primer is any color other than what is specified on the product's Safety Data Sheet or Technical Data Sheet, please contact a Mica Technical Sales Representative.