



Adjusting Color

BASF works constantly with OEMs to provide the best color match possible for all repairers. BASF formulates colors to blendable standards which helps to account for the variables in the manufacturing and collision repair industry.

BASF works to provide at a blendable color match with the first color retrieval step; either through physical or digital color tools. Our latest digital tools offer outstanding performance including theoretical color adjustments to recognize and align with the existing color more efficiently.

The reality in collision repair centers is that tinting may be required to achieve a blendable match, and does still happen on a regular basis for several reasons:

- **Manufacturing Variances** - BASF makes every attempt to identify color variations early, however due to modern vehicle manufacturing processes this is not always possible, and often times paint companies are reacting to what the collision repair centers see. In this situation paint companies will collect car parts or damaged panels from the vehicle, but due to demands for short cycle times the collision repair center must solve the color issue quickly, which requires tinting.
- **Vehicle Weathering** – Vehicles parked outside for extended periods of time, and particularly in extreme environments will have varying levels of color variation due to weathering. These impacts can vary dramatically and require that the collision repair center adjust the color to match the vehicle.
- **Previous Repairs** – Many vehicles will receive multiple repairs throughout it's life and it's common that these repairs are not documented collision repairs; some examples include end-of-line repair at the OEM, shipping damage repairs and lease or fleet vehicle reconditioning operations. These prior repairs introduce new color variation that is virtually impossible to account for in standard color documentation and often requires additional color adjustment steps to achieve a blendable match.
- **Environmental/Shop Conditions** - Modern waterborne paint systems provide many advantages over older technology and are legally required to be used in many areas around the US. Waterborne technology by nature is impacted by humidity and temperature, and painters need to adjust to these changing conditions. This can have an impact on final color results. Additionally, the shop's equipment, airlines, spray guns, and booth setups can all influence final color.
- **Application** - Painting remains a manual process, and with any manual process some variation can be introduced from painter to painter. BASF builds robust technology that limits the impact of this, but it still has an impact. With OEM color complexity continuing to rise, application in some color spaces becomes critical. In these situations, it's often faster and simpler for the painter to adjust a color to match their application.

All of the factors above influence color for a collision center. Adjusting colors to achieve a blendable match to the vehicle's finish is the most reliable way to achieve an undetectable repair. Considering the variables mentioned, color adjustment can be necessary to achieve a blendable match. BASF has digital tools that can help a painter adjust color, making the process more efficient for a variety of skill levels. However, it still takes additional time and resources, requires multiple sprayouts to be made (like manual tinting) and requires time to scan sprayouts, load them into the software, and analyze the results to make additional adjustments.

It is important to note that while manual tinting is considered a "last resort", any steps outside of the initial color retrieval process should be considered "tinting" or "color adjustment" steps, as they take additional time and resources to conduct. When considered from this perspective, many repairs require additional color adjustment time and resource.

If you have any further questions or would like to learn more about our products, please contact us at: 1.800.758.2273, and visit our website - <https://refinish.basf.us>

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