

Color Fading in Acrylic Finishes

PRODUCTS INTERNATIONAL

TECHNICAL BULLETIN

While Omega Products International uses only high-quality raw materials and color pigments in our acrylic-based finishes (such as AkroFlex, OmegaFlex, AkroLastic, etc.), the finish color may eventually fade. This fading is a result of long-term exposure to UV light (i.e., sunlight) and weathering (i.e., rain, pollutants, etc.).

Color fading may be minimized by generally adhering to the following guidelines:

- 1. Avoid using darker colors.** Darker colors are more prone to fading for a couple of reasons. First, all resin-based coatings, such as acrylic finishes or paint, will eventually start to caulk, where a fine white powder appears on the surface. On darker colors, the caulking is more visible and noticeably lightens the color. Also, darker colors typically require more pigment to achieve the color, which can reduce the relative amount of resin and lower the finishes' long-term performance. Colors with a lightness value of approximately 20% or greater will be less prone to fading.
- 2. Avoid selecting colors that use organic pigments.** The standard liquid color pigments that Omega uses are iron oxide-based and are highly resistant to fading. However, organic pigments are not UV stable and will fade with sunlight exposure. Organic colors are used because standard colorants cannot achieve some colors, such as bright yellows, reds, and blues. If those colors are desired, then it needs to be understood that they will need to be occasionally recoated to maintain their original color. Omega puts a warning on all color samples that use organic pigments.

Choosing the appropriate color can help maintain the Omega finishes' color and beauty for many, many years.



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