

# GROUT COLOR, TEXTURE, LIGHTING

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## GROUT COLOR

Color comprises a large and important portion of our lives. The magic of color interaction is that our perceptions of colors change when color is viewed under different conditions. The way color appears is affected by the conditions under which the color can be seen.

There is no such thing as a single, isolated color. They are always seen next to other colors. The hue, value, and intensity that describes a color exists in an imaginary void; when the color is placed in a context of surrounding colors, everything is changed.

The color of an installed grout will appear different depending on the color of the tile and the lighting conditions. It is frustrating (and expensive) to install a colored grout with a perfect tone for a particular scheme only to discover that it appears to have a different shade when applied between colored tile. Changes in color perception occur whether we want them to or not, so it is critical for project owners and designers to understand just how colors interact, and to anticipate those interactions. It is highly recommended to do a test panel simulating job conditions, environment and materials.

## GROUT TEXTURE

The texture and finish of installed grout are a result of the type of grout used and installation/finishing techniques used by the installer. Surface texture and finish alter the way color is perceived. Rough, textured areas of raised sand in a sanded grout will appear darker in color. Smooth areas found with non-sanded grout and over-worked sanded grout will appear lighter in color.

## LIGHTING

The type and source of lighting that a tile installation is exposed to can accentuate surface irregularities by casting shadows on the tile surface and grout joints. Sources of lighting include overhead or vertical light from the ceiling directly over a wall and outside natural light through windows and doors. The type of light will also affect the way the color is perceived. Different types of lighting include fluorescent, white bulb, halogen and torch. Each of these types will make the same grout sample/color look different.

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