



# CONTRACTOR

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## NOTES

Published: October 15, 2014 by R. Douglas Myer

### **Five Tips for Getting the Panel Color You Want – the First Time.**

There is more than meets the eye when selecting the right color for siding and roofing. Color can be tricky, and if handled wrong, you could end up with a great roof... that disappoints a customer. While the latest panel finishes ensure longer weather-resistance than ever before, the panels' energy-reflective coatings make them very difficult to pinpoint their true color. Here are a few tips to remember that can prevent color issues from making you blue.

1. Don't rely on anyone's color chart. These are printed with inks on paper, not cured finishes on metal. Use a color chart first to narrow your color selection with the customer. Then, request actual samples of your selected colors. Remember, today's metal roofing has advanced UV protection, so be sure to look at your color choices OUTSIDE, where the panel will be used. These colors will look very different under incandescent or florescent lighting because of the energy-reflective coatings. If you like the color sample in sunlight, you will like the finished product.
2. Coil coaters paint coils in lots, and give each run a serial number. While they make every effort to be consistent with computer-precision, slight differences in colors may occur between separate coils. If your panel layout or appearance is critical, ask your supplier to make sure your entire project comes from a single coil series.
3. Metallic finishes require special attention. Make sure all panels (and trim) are run the same direction, and are clearly marked from the panel manufacturer. If a panel is inadvertently turned end-for-end, the panel will look like a different shade than the rest. This is due to the direction of the metallic flakes applied to the coil in the factory finish.
4. While Galvalume and Galvanized panels have a similar appearance, they are noticeably different when seen side-by-side. Additionally, these two products will weather dissimilarly over time. Determine which product best suits your application, or make sure you properly identify any existing panels, and match them.
5. Special note for "Thrifty" finishes. Thrifty, or economy panels, offer no guarantee to match or be run off the same coil. These panels may even be supplied by varying manufacturers, and have different color numbers. These panels are good, first-quality panels, but they are economy priced with no color-matching guarantees. They are great for less critical projects, and can save you money. Just don't spec Thrifty panels for color-critical applications.