

Asphalt can be applied in colored applications. The color is provided by means of using:

- aggregates of a specific color
- pigments
- cleared binder.

The colored asphalt can be produced with a normal asphalt batching plant. The pigment is dozed in the mix similar to additional filler or anti stripping agents.

It is also possible to use a colored type of aggregate and pigments with normal (black) bitumen. When using black bitumen however the percentage of pigment that needs to be dozed is 2.5 to 3 times larger when compared to clear binder. Furthermore the color intensity is much lower as shown in the picture below for a red colored asphalt. The left sample is with normal bitumen and the right with clear binder. For this reason the use of black bitumen is rarely used for colored asphalt.

During use the received color after application fades (color becomes less bright). In case non colored aggregate is used the color of the asphalt surface will eventually be dominated by the aggregate color, which implies that the colored effect is lost.

Figure: Color comparison bitumen and clear binder.



Pigments exist in liquid types, dust types and solid types. For first use we recommend to use the solid type since the method of application (no dust problems and better quantity control) is the easiest. Since the liquid types are nothing but binder with the pigment we do not recommend this type.

The pigment is added to the batch mixer with the aggregate before the bitumen is added. In case of regular production also a separate bin with the pigment might be used. In that case also the dust type might be used.

Typical quantities of pigment to be added with clear binder is between 1.0 and 1.5% mass of the total mix. The typical quantity of pigment to be added with black bitumen is more than 4.0%.