

How To Choose The Right Coating

The Performance and Suitability of a coating are usually the most important considerations when choosing a coating. Other factors such as Gloss and Color can make a dramatic difference in the final look and durability of the coating and should be taken into consideration when choosing.

Gloss

The gloss of a coating can affect the abrasion resistance and hiding power of a coating as follows:

- *Low Gloss Level – good at hiding defects of the surface, generally have poor abrasion resistance and are difficult to clean.*
- *High Gloss Level – good abrasion resistance and cleaning is easier, makes defects appear more visible.*



What alters gloss levels?

The gloss level of a coating is influenced by surface roughness. In a paint or coating, the protrusion of pigment particles through the resin or binder layer causes the diffraction of the light, and a dullness is visible. Where the pigment is completely coated by the resin, the surface is smoother and the angular light is reflected unhindered, producing a glossy appearance, not unlike a polished glass surface.

Gloss influence on color

As gloss is a property of reflected light, it can influence the visual color of a surface when viewed from various angles. Viewing from a position directly perpendicular to the surface, with the light directly behind, will show the closest color.

Moving to an angle away from the perpendicular (or moving the light source), will show a color difference caused by the difference in gloss. When a coating surface has a 60° and 85° gloss that are the same (or very similar), the uniformity in appearance is apparent from all angles. This reduces visible shading effects from slightly non-uniform surfaces.

For more information on Gloss levels visit the [MPI Gloss and Sheen page](#) on the Paintinfo.com website.

Color

Color can alter the appearance of a room by highlighting or hiding architectural flaws. It can also create an impression of warmth or coolness and a feeling of tranquility or energy:

- Greens are mostly “cool”
- Yellow, orange, red, yellow- green and red-purple re classified as warm colors.

Darker colors can have an increased environmental impact. In some cases, this is due to the amount of tint required in darker colors, which can reduce the durability of the coating. Also, the need for additional coats to achieve the desired outcome, and the need for additional lighting due if darker colors are used.

Consideration of the gloss and color of the coating can help to achieve a desired outcome, along with consideration of the other variables, such as:

- Environment
- Surface type
- DSD level
- Preparation
- Application