

Fabrication Bulletin # 2005

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Color Matching

HanStone Quartz offers the natural beauty of quartz with up to six times the strength and durability of granite. More than 90% of HanStone's composition is natural quartz crystals, one of nature's hardest minerals. The quartz is combined with resins and pigment to create the look of natural stone without the high maintenance. There is no need for sealing, conditioning, and polishing. HanStone Quartz is scratch and stain resistant and its non-porous nature makes it an ideal surface for residential or commercial applications.

HanStone is a man-made product comprised of predominantly natural minerals. The natural color and pattern variations are an inherent trait that is a key design element of this product. These variations cannot be viewed as defects and are intrinsic properties of the HanStone Quartz surface. Because of these variations, care must be exercised in the layout portion of fabrication to insure a successful project for you and your customer.

Layout

It is important to visually inspect the slabs being used even if they are from the same lot number. Place the slabs side by side if possible or cut a small piece from an area of the slab that will become waste in order to compare them closely.

- Obtain slabs from the same lot number for matching consistency. For clarification please reference the attached memo regarding lot numbers and slab labels.
- Do not cut slabs or fabricate a job if the slabs do not match.
- Pay close attention to particulate size and distribution. This can vary slightly from slabs within the same lot or sometimes from the perimeter of the slab to center.
- Slight background shade variations can occur, especially on monochromatic or solid color patterns.
- Each slab is unique and will have unique color and pattern variations. Samples cannot show all of the possible variations and should be referred to as a general indication of the materials aesthetic properties. Please read the label on the back of the sample for additional clarification. It is not possible or even intended that samples exactly match each slab.
- Seams are necessary to join pieces of HanStone together. Slight color and pattern variations will be visible from one side of a seam to the other. Slight color and pattern variations are acceptable.

- Test fit pieces to be seamed together. Do not install countertops that have more than a slight color or pattern variation. When in doubt, ask yourself if you would accept the variation in your own home.

Pattern

Even though the manufacturing process is tightly controlled, 93% of the raw materials are natural aggregates. The alignment of aggregate and resin concentrations can vary slightly in the slabs. Slight variations in pattern are acceptable however care must be taken not to seam 2 pieces together with a noticeable pattern variation. In addition some of our HanStone products also feature veins that have the appearance of movement and flow. It will be difficult if not impossible to match pattern across a seam on a vein pattern. Please also reference Fabrication Bulletin 2001-Veined Materials. Also be aware that pattern, veining, and color will usually vary across a seam in the new Momentum Series (see Fabrication Bulletin # 2004).

Examples

Hyundai L&C USA does not claim that seams will be invisible or even inconspicuous. Some minor color and pattern variation can occur within pieces on either side of a seam.

Following are examples of acceptable color matched jobs;





The above photos depict a slight variation in color or pattern at a seam - all of which are deemed acceptable in a quartz countertop application.

Lighting

When viewing pieces for color match, proper lighting is an important factor. It is not necessary to inspect the slabs in direct sunlight or even natural lighting. What is important is that the lighting be adequate and uniform. Lighting that is 40 feet above the shop floor may not be adequate to see color variations and will look distinctly different than lighting in a customer's kitchen. Conversely, under counter lighting and high intensity spot lighting in a kitchen can sometimes make a top appear to have color variance even when it does not. Always photograph a color variance issue under uniform lighting.

The photo below shows a uniform color countertop photographed under non-uniform (spot) lighting conditions.



Warranty and Color Match

The Hyundai L&C USA Limited Lifetime Warranty states that the material will be free from manufacturing defects. While not a manufacturing defect, slabs with a noticeable color variation within the same lot number will be replaced provided no cutting or installation has taken place. The Hyundai L&C USA warranty specifically excludes color variance and it is up to the fabricator to review and address potential problems prior to installation.

Remember that HanStone is composed of predominantly natural quartz and as a result variation in color, particulate size, shape and distribution is an inherent trait expected of this product. A little time spent on the front end will result in a successful installation which will meet your customers' needs and expectations.