



The colourful world of colours and colour cards



Many objects and components in and out of our houses are delivered in colours that correspond to shades from certain colour collections.

The radiator and the room doors were installed in RAL 9010; the garden gate is moss green RAL 6005. The facade paint may have been chosen using an NCS swatch deck, while the interior architect chose the wall colours from one of the countless collections offered by various colour manufacturers.

Often, the colours of different components do not match even though they were ordered in the same colour tone. Or a lacquered part is not a 100% match with the selected swatch on the colour chart. The resulting effects are shown on this image. Here, lacquers were ordered from different manufacturers with the same colour tone of the NCS colour collection; then, they were lacquered and compared. The colour result is distinctly uneven.

But why is that?

There are, of course, many reasons why colour tones created by different manufacturers are so different. We want to shed some light on one issue in this article. Although all the lacquers were produced according to the same colour tone description, the colour cards, according to which the colours are formulated and

tested, are unfortunately often quite different. There are no available standards for almost all colour collections, so that uniform colour schemes seem virtually impossible for all colour manufacturers and sellers. Even if there are binding standards for some colour collections, they are not available. Or they are so expensive that hardly anyone can stock them. On the other hand, you can frequently find relatively inexpensive colour swatch books, which are only very rarely a 100% match with the standard colour tone. Therefore, they can only be used as an orientation aid.

The „same“ NCS colour for different lacquer manufacturers.

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What can you do if you have to produce colour designations from a colour collection? Make sure your customers understand that colour differences are often normal in colour charts, which are often very different from one another.

If two objects need to have the same colour but are varnished differently or are made of different materials, you can use the Hesse colour service: Hesse and its sales and distribution partners are perfectly equipped to create colour tones for a swatch. Thanks to Hesse's excellent colour mixing concept, a perfect colour result is achieved with the help of modern colourimetry.

But we also look outside the box: how do other sectors deal with this topic? If a car is being repaired and needs new paint, the colour tone description is not sufficient for the lacquer specialist. In general, the specialist will also coat the adjacent body parts in order to achieve a perfect result.

„But here's what you can rely on: the latest available colour standards are always used in the Hesse laboratories, so you always receive the best possible colour tone from us.“

You can also use this process in the furniture sector to present the optimal results to your customers – for example, if a single component must be newly produced and added to the middle of an older kitchen front.

