
Paint Express: Guide to the use of HYDRO paste systems

Our pigment paste system has been developed for maximum user-friendliness. But, as with any colour mixing system, there are a number of points that require special attention when using a VOC-free colour mixing system. This information circular is intended to serve as a practical guide for the proper operation of VOC-free colour mixing systems.

Storage of VOC-free pigment pastes

- VOC-free pigment pastes are water-based products and need to be stored in a location with a temperature between 10 and 30 °C.
- Protect the pigment pastes from direct sunlight, high temperatures and the influence of heat sources (heaters, etc.).
- Protect the pigment pastes from frost. Store the pastes in heated rooms.
- Always be sure to immediately empty all the contents of opened packaging into the designated storage container on the dispensing unit. This prevents the pigment paste from evaporating, drying and becoming contaminated.
- Ensure that the pigment pastes are used within the stated minimum shelf life. You can find the shelf life on the label.

Ambient conditions for mixing machines

- Proper functioning requires the mixing machine to be used at room temperature. Do not place it near heat sources, in cold environments, or where it is exposed to direct sunlight. High humidity should also be avoided.

Filling and topping up

- Manually create a uniform consistency in the pigment pastes, or use a mixer to do this, before filling them into mixing machine.
- Only use the storage containers to fill a pigment paste, and make sure that nothing spills next to the container. Use a clean funnel or similar filling aid to prevent unnecessary contamination of the agitators and containers.
- After filling the containers, any colorant contamination that may have occurred must be cleaned from the outside of the sealing lid and from the immediate vicinity outside the containers.
- Always empty the cans completely. Should this not be possible, clean the rim of the can and close it tightly. The time that opened cans are stored must then be kept as short as possible.
- Ensure that the containers always have a high fill level of pigment pastes and that the lids are closed to prevent drying within the container. Dried-on pastes on the agitator and on the upper rims of the container need to be removed.
- Check the containers weekly and top them up to the maximum fill level.
- Configure the warning levels in the dispensing software to enable you receive a message when low fill levels are reached.

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Daily cleaning and maintenance

- On a daily basis, clean the operationally relevant components of the dispensing unit that come into contact with the pigment pastes. This includes, among others, the areas where refilling takes place: the sealing cap on the central dispensing head and the brush containers.
- Perform the cleaning programme on the mixing machine on a daily basis.
- Always keep the nozzle head caps and cleaning brushes damp and clean.
- Configure the agitating intervals for the paste containers in such a way that each pigment paste is stirred three times per day for 1 to 1.5 minutes.
- Pay special attention to cleaning the machine before each filling.

What can be done in the event of micro-bacterial contamination?

The reduction or elimination of solvents and the restrictions on the use of biocides mean that VOC-free pigment pastes provide a good breeding ground for microbial growth. The above recommendations keep the risk of contamination to a minimum. It is nevertheless always possible for a VOC-free pigment paste to become contaminated during filling into the mixing machine. This is characterised by a strong, unpleasant smell that develops in the container, and/or the formation of mould.

Take the following action if this is the case:

- Fully remove the contaminated pigment paste from the container.
- Clean the dispensing unit according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Fill the container with cleaning solution (75 % ZD 70 and 25 % water) and leave it to soak for around an hour. The specifications regarding the use of solvents (especially in technical equipment) must be followed depending on the equipment type.
- Then dispense the entire contents from the container.
- Next fill the container with fresh pigment paste and dispense around 200 ml. Dispose of this first quantity and do not return it to the container. The container can now be completely filled. The pump may still need to be vented in some cases. Please speak to a service technician about this.

Please also contact your service technician if you have any questions about these explanations.

Note:

This information is purely advisory and is based on the best knowledge available after careful research in line with current state of the art technology. It is not legally binding. We also refer you to our Terms and Conditions.

The material safety data sheet as per regulation (EC) No. 1907/2006 is available.