

## Mottle in Colored Laminates

Saflex® and Vanceva® colored PVB interlayer products are produced using heat and light stable colorants. These stable materials are inorganic or non-soluble organic materials that give these interlayers color durability. The durability is due in part to the colorants not dissolving in the plasticized PVB formulation, but rather remaining as discrete suspended particles with finite dimensions. Such particles, by their nature, reflect and refract light and are therefore, at times, visible to the human eye.

Laminates can be constructed of single or multi-layers of Saflex or Vanceva interlayers. The maximum number of layers recommended is four (4). As the complexity of the configuration increases the processing of such laminates needs to be carefully followed and the final laminate should be evaluated for aesthetic acceptability.

One aesthetic characteristic that is subjective to the viewer is the formation of mottle. Mottle is classified as a visual non-uniformity, or “grainy” effect. If noticed, mottle is usually only seen when the laminate is viewed under special conditions. This phenomenon is typically not noticeable to an untrained eye. A sensitive or trained eye may find some combinations objectionable. Darker colors and multiple layers tend to be make the mottle more perceptible, but mottling can occur in single interlayer laminates as well.

The acceptability of mottle is subjective and in some design instances may be considered a desirable characteristic. Multi-layer combinations are made under the full responsibility of the laminator. It is recommended that a mock-up laminate be prepared and viewed under the same conditions as the intended installation in order to obtain acceptance and agreement from the customer or authority having jurisdiction to provide acceptance.

**Keywords:** Architectural, Color, Mottle, Saflex

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