

Natural Tectum Color Variances

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Tectum products are produced using excelsior wood fibers on a continuous manufacturing line. Tectum products are available in natural, painted white and Sherwin Williams™ custom colors. When painted, the face of the Tectum panel has a relatively uniform look. When left natural, there is a variance in appearance from panel to panel just as with most unfinished wood products.

Natural Tectum panels have the look of the source wood, the Trembling Aspen Tree (*Populus Tremuloides*). When harvested, the Aspen Tree is put through an excelsior machine that plains and then strips the wood into long strands (excelsior) that are bound into bales. The bales are delivered to Tectum Inc. by truck. Combined with our environmentally friendly binder, under heat and pressure, they produce the Tectum panel.

Core Wood: The Aspen Tree has a core that can be a completely different color than the outer wood. Every Aspen Tree provides some type of color variance as every tree is different. The fibers in each bale of excelsior are random, so there are inevitably some bails that have high concentrations of colored fibers and some bales that have very low concentrations of colored fibers. During the manufacturing process, these fibers are randomly placed on the production mat. This process can produce some natural panels with a high concentration of colored fibers while other panels have a low concentration of colored fibers. The result is finished panels that vary widely as a direct result of their natural characteristics.

Soil: The soil that the Aspen trees are planted in can cause a difference in the core wood color. More or less minerals, acidity and chemicals in the soil, absorbed by the tree over the course of its lifetime can cause color variations.

Lighting: Natural Tectum Panels can appear to be different colors when viewed using different lighting. When panels, installed on walls, are viewed under halogen lighting, they will appear different than when viewed under incandescent bulb or LED lighting. Mounting methods and light placement will cause significant variances in the appearance of Tectum Natural Panels.

Density: Placement of the excelsior fibers on the production mat is random. Areas of greater density tend to be brighter. These variations are normal and considered to be an important part of the natural look of the panel.

Binder: Binder batches are mixed on the Tectum Inc. production line every 7 – 8 minutes. The mixes are tightly monitored and controlled to meet stringent quality standards. Just as fabric dye lots show variations from one batch to the next, there is some variation between binder batches that is unavoidable.

The character of natural Tectum panels is derived from the variations in hue and tone that occur naturally. These variations are not considered imperfections, but an integral part of the natural look of these panels. Lighting will materially impact the final appearance of any installation.