



## UV DISCOLOURATION OF WET POUR RUBBER

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Polyurethane binder which is mixed with the rubber granules reacts to ultraviolet radiation. This then causes the surface to show a yellow/brown tinge which within the industry we call Blooming. Usually the change will happen during the installation process or overnight whilst the rubber is curing. It is more noticeable in colours such as Light Grey, Light Blue, Eggshell and Beige.

Pending on conditions, all colours will be subject to slight color changes. This is a result of sun exposure or higher temperatures and it can cause the other colours to appear darker. This phenomenon is the result of the formation of transparent crystals during the curing process, which cause light to refract when passing through them in the same way as a simple prism.

It is also the light refraction when viewing the finished surface that gives you the yellow/brown appearance. The actual color of the rubber granules has not changed as can be seen by cutting a cross section. The appearance of the surface will also vary pending on the position/ angle or sunlight conditions by which you view it.

Industry evidence shows that the effects of ultraviolet rays do reverse over time and the polyurethane resin can lose its yellow/brown tinge. This in turn allows the rubber granules to revert to their original color shade again.

There is no way to completely avoid this yellowing effect with Aromatic binders, however Aliphatic binders do significantly reduce this. The reason Aliphatic binders are not commonly used is due to price as it can be up to 3 times more expensive than traditional Aromatic polyurethane binders.

Please call RubberTough if you require any further information.

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