

Colouring of Plans
Building (Administration) Regulation 14(3)

Building (Administration) Regulation 14(3) requires that one copy of every plan submitted for approval shall be coloured in order to clearly differentiate existing work from proposed new work and one part of any proposed new work from other parts.

2. Choice of colours has, in the past, been left to authorized persons (APs), who have generally adopted those colours which have evolved through time as standards. However, recent experience has tended to suggest that some APs are using different colours and that this has given rise to complications in some instances. Consequently, the opportunity is now taken to specify the preferred colours to be used for plans and associated drawings.

3. Unfortunately, manufacturers of coloured pencils and poster paints have not adopted universal identification codes or names for colours. Furthermore, BS 1192 Construction Drawing Practice, Part 1 focuses on the use of hatching or other graphic techniques as opposed to colouring. Consequently, BS 5252:1976, Framework for Colour Co-ordination for Building Purposes, has been chosen by the Buildings Ordinance Office as the basis for identification and selection of the preferred colours, as shown in Appendix A.

4. The BS 5252F Colour Matching Fan contains 64 mm square patches of all the colours in the BS 5252 framework and should be used in conjunction with the colour cards produced by drawing material manufacturers in order to select the **best possible** match within their range of products.

5. The use of these recommended colours will expedite processing of plans and is therefore clearly in the interests of all parties.



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Preferred Colours

Material	Preferred Colour	BS 5252 Identification Code
Earth (unexcavated)	Fawn	06 C 33
Hardcore or dry fill	Brown	06 C 39
Brick	Red	04 E 55
Concrete (plain or reinforced)	Green	14 E 53
Solid Concrete Blocks	Blue	20 E 56
Hollow Concrete Blocks	Mauve	24 E 53
Lightweight Partition (e.g. Plasterboard)	Orange	06 E 55
Plaster or Cement Rendering	Magnolia	08 E 49
Mosaic or other non-absorbent floor tiles	Pink	02 C 33
Mosaic or other non-absorbent wall tiles	Lemon	10 E 50
Glass	Blue	20 E 50
Timber doors	Brown	06 D 44
Metalwork	Grey	00 A 03
Steel	Purple	24 C 39
Sanitary fittings	Yellow	10 E 55
Provision for the disabled e.g. toilets, lifts, ramps	Green	12 E 53

Notes:

1. Ducts, light-wells and lift shafts should be left uncoloured.
 2. For elevations and the larger plan areas, colouring may be in lighter washes of the preferred colours in order to avoid a garish effect e.g. concreted, tiled or plastered areas.
 3. A light colour wash should be used to identify phased development.
 4. A colour legend or key should be added to all sets of drawings.
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