

### Mixing and Boxing Stains & Topcoats

One of the more common stain problems we see is the result of inadequate mixing. This is easy to identify. The color on a wall goes from light to dark as the stain gets closer to the bottom of the pail where there is an increase in pigment concentration. Unfortunately, there is no “easy



Proper mixing is a must.

Although we take great strides to maintain consistency within and between manufactured lots, boxing containers ensures that there will be no noticeable color difference as you go from one container to the next.

fix” other than stripping the finish and starting over. This problem is easy to avoid with proper mixing before the product



Inadequately mixed stain applied to wall.

is used and occasionally during its use. We also recommend “boxing” containers when the working container gets close to empty. When a container of stain gets down to ca. 1/4 full, you should thoroughly mix the next container you plan to use and pour about 1/4 of it into the working container. Mix them together and continue staining with this blended stain.

Since our LIFELINE™ Advance Gloss and Satin; and Acrylic Gloss and Satin topcoats are clear and colorless, some individuals think that they do not have to be mixed before application. However, they must be mixed! These products consist of several components that may stratify or separate in the container over time. Even though this separation may not be noticeable, they need to be mixed for product consistency. Always stir the topcoat well before applying it and occasionally during use, especially for satin topcoats. The flattening agents contained in satin finishes have a tendency to settle and need to be dispersed uniformly throughout the product. Furthermore, since our topcoats are colorless, it is not necessary to “box” containers.