



# CULTURED STONE®

A Boral® Brand

## DARK OR WET STONE APPEARANCE

### Technical Bulletin: BSP-001-01

#### PURPOSE

The purpose of this technical bulletin is to describe the change in color and appearance expected for a Cultured Stone® Product as a result of a change in its moisture content. This bulletin also provides an approach for estimating the final color of the dry stone.

#### CURING AND DRYING CULTURED STONE®

Early Strength Curing techniques are utilized to allow de-molding and handling earlier than normal curing. High moisture content is required for lightweight concrete to achieve early strength and to minimize damage during shipping, handling and installation.

Cultured Stone® Products are packaged and stored, depending on texture, for a minimum of 3-7 days prior to shipment. This step ensures the delivery of quality product. Drying and curing are different but both involve the progressive loss of moisture from the concrete until it reaches its final strength. Curing actually continues for multiple years during which original drying and subsequent rewetting will occur. Both drying and curing are impacted by variables such as, temperature, humidity, condensation and ventilation.

Weather conditions during shipping, at the storage location and job site can accelerate or delay the drying process. Product manufactured and shipped during the winter months into Northern markets represent the most extreme conditions.

#### COLOR CHANGE IN CULTURED STONE® PRODUCTS

Anyone who has observed a freshly poured sidewalk or driveway has witnessed color change during the curing and drying process. The fresh driveway or sidewalk can appear dark gray or even green and months later it dries to almost white. Cultured Stone® Products exhibit a similar change in color. To demonstrate this, examine the following photo showing examples of the appearance variation between wet and dry halves of the same stone.



The next photograph provides a real life example of how wet stone installed on a fireplace contrasted in color from the fully cured mortar board used to select the product. To the customer's amazement, after curing, this fireplace matched the sample board



#### REDUCING CUSTOMER FEARS – INCREASING JOB SITE CONFIDENCE

**What can be done to provide the customer some assurance that the color will change and match the sample as the product dries?**

In most cases, the following method provides a relatively quick assurance. First break one of the stones in half and put one half, face up, in a conventional oven at a temperature of 150 degrees Fahrenheit for 24 hours. An oven thermometer is recommended to monitor the temperature. Do not exceed 200 degrees Fahrenheit. Carefully remove the stone after cooling and compare it to the other half. The color of the dried sample should meet the customer's expectations. Comparing the color of the wet and dried halves demonstrates the expected color change.

**WARNING: Do not try to dry stones in a microwave oven as damage or injury may result.**

#### SERVICE AFTER THE JOB IS COMPLETED

**What should you do if after complete drying the same product doesn't match the color you selected?**

If, after the job has been installed and the stones have dried, you are not satisfied with the match of colors you selected, please contact our warranty department at 1(800) 255-1727.

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