

## Aromatic Binder and Ambering

All of the EPDM granules in the top portion of a poured-in-place rubber system are encapsulated with aromatic binder when components are mixed. After installation, the surface granules, when exposed to sunlight, will develop a yellowish “film” that will initially alter the granules’ chosen color. Every color is affected to some extent, but the blues, greens, and lighter colors will be most affected. This ambering or yellowing is a natural but temporary phenomenon that will “burn off” or “peel off” with exposure to the weather and natural abrasion from foot traffic. It is important to recognize that the ambering phenomenon is to be expected and does not in any way indicate faulty material or incorrect installation.

Below is an example of what ambering looks like. This surface is a gray/black mix. The surface on the right was installed one day prior to the surface on the left. Eventually, the top coat of aromatic binder wore off and



the entire surface color returned to the gray/black mix as it appears on the left.

Ambering occurs industry-wide whenever aromatic binder is used. Here are few statements from other poured-in-place manufacturers:

- *Binder - 100% polyurethane binding agent that is moisture sensitive. The natural properties of the aromatic binder is to amber. This ambering can produce slight streaks in the beginning. With weather changes and foot traffic, the ambering will disappear. Option of Aliphatic or Aromatic Binder available.*

- *Aliphatic urethane is recommended for certain colors (blue, teal, purple, eggshell and grays) because aromatic binder “yellows” slightly upon*

*exposure to UV rays. Most if this thin layer wears off with foot traffic and weathering, typically within two to six months. This characteristic applies industry wide.*

To prevent ambering, aliphatic binder can be used instead. Aliphatic binder contains an additive to prevent ultraviolet light from altering the surface color. Aliphatic binder is available at an additional cost.

Please review and feel free to contact us with any questions you may have.