

Adding a colouring agent to WEST SYSTEM® epoxy is frequently done to make coloured castings, highlight an epoxy coated surface, or to act as a coloured base coat for paint, etc. Most powdered pigments are satisfactory, as are acrylic paste pigments and universal tinting pigment.

Adding pigment to epoxy should be done in moderation. Without exception, adding pigment to WEST SYSTEM® brand epoxy will weaken the cured mixture to some degree. Because of this, use very small amounts of pigment, about 5% by weight. As a result, thin films of coloured epoxy are somewhat transparent; it usually requires several coats to make the film opaque.

Epoxy, tinted or clear, does not have good UV light resistance. An epoxy coating exposed to UV will yellow, become opaque, and eventually flake off. This process takes a while and if the object you are coating has limited exposure to sunlight, a coloured epoxy coating will hold up for years.

ATL Composites supply pigments in two colours, WEST SYSTEM® 501 white and 502 black. We suspend the pigments in an epoxy resin base which allows them to blend thoroughly into the epoxy to make very uniform colours. Because the pigment has an epoxy resin base, it is important not to add more than the recommended amount. Adding an excessive amount of pigment to the epoxy could alter the resin/hardener ratio, resulting in a cured epoxy with poor performance.

Paste pigments such as artist's acrylic pigment can weaken the epoxy. However, they are available in a multitude of colours so if the strength of epoxy is not an overriding issue, artist acrylic makes an acceptable colourant.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

WEST SYSTEM® 501 and 502 Pigments have moderate sensitising potential, and should be kept out of the eyes and off the skin. Avoid inhalation and prolonged, or repeated, skin contact. Launder contaminated clothing before reuse.

- Use with good ventilation and adequate safety equipment including impervious gloves, safety glasses and dust masks
- Wash skin thoroughly after handling.
- If eye contact occurs, immediately flush with running water for at least 15 (fifteen) minutes and seek medical advice.
- If swallowed, DO NOT induce vomiting, give plenty of milk or water and contact a doctor or the Poisons Information Centre.

*NOTE Our products are intended for sale to industrial and commercial customers. We request that customers inspect and test our products before use and satisfy themselves as to contents and suitability. Nothing herein shall constitute a warranty, express or implied, including any warranty or merchantability or fitness, nor is protection from law or patent to be inferred. All patent rights are reserved. The exclusive remedy for all proven claims is replacement of our materials and in no event shall we be liable for special or consequential damages.*