

FAQ: Pantone New Formula Guide

Pantone recently released new Pantone Matching System Colors. Read on for answers to frequently asked questions.

How many new colors were added? 224 new mixed colors were added, plus 5 new base ink colors for a total of 229 new colors.

Which Pantone Graphics Products contain the new colors? New colors appear in the Pantone Formula Guide, Pantone Color Bridge, Pantone Solid Chips, Pantone Solid Guide Set, Pantone Reference Library, Pantone Portable Guide Set, Pantone Essentials Set, and the Pantone Solid Color Set.

Were new colors added to the Metallics or Pastels and Neons Guides or Chip Books? No. New colors were not added to either of these product lines but the color of the covers was changed to identify them as part of the new product release.

Will the new colors be available for as Pantone On-Demand Digital Swatches? Yes, the coated colors are available to order as Pantone Reference On-Demand Swatches. Go to pantone.com to order now.

How can Pantone Colors be accessed in popular design, printing and quality control solutions (including X-Rite measurement instruments and software)? The new Pantone Colors are available in Pantone Connect, and also in the Pantone Connect Extension for Adobe Creative Cloud. All of your favorite apps for design, print quality and color formulation have been provided the latest Pantone master digital data, so you can design and produce the new Pantone Colors with confidence, everywhere.

What's different about this new Pantone Guide? All Pantone Colors in the latest guide are coatable and more environmentally friendly than in the prior version of the guide. This means the Pantone Colors can have a coating applied during, or after, the print process to prevent scratching or address packaging and labeling requirements. Also, all Pantone Colors are now produced with vegetable oils and have been confirmed to contain no hazardous substances as defined by OSHA, the EU, and GHS.

What types of coatings can be applied over Pantone Colors? The Pantone Colors as printed in the latest guide are fully compatible with overprint varnishes, aqueous, and UV coatings.

What printing process is used to produce Pantone books? Pantone uses offset lithography to print all the Pantone Guides and Color Chip Books for graphics.

Has the paper changed in the new Pantone Formula Guides? Despite the recent supply chain issues in the paper industry, Pantone has maintained the use of the same supplier and quality of paper stock for the Formula Guide (both Coated and Uncoated).

Have the formulas for mixing Pantone Colors changed? Pantone wanted the advantage of eco-friendliness and coatability to be available to designers and suppliers for all the Pantone colors. So, the latest Formula Guide reflects new recipes based on inks that have these properties.

Did the appearance of the Pantone Color Matching System colors change in the latest guide? Pantone always strives for the best quality that can be achieved with a production printing process. The new guide colors are matched to the Pantone master digital data, which is consistent with every printing of the Pantone Formula Guide. For pre-existing Pantone Colors, the master digital data has not changed (established in 2010).

Why does the Uncoated book in the Pantone Formula Guide set seem to have small white specs on some of the colors? Because the latest Pantone Formula Guide uses state-of-the-art lithographic offset printing (instead of the traditional direct print process), you might find some of the uncoated Pantone Colors exhibit small white specs. This appearance is typical with offset printing on uncoated paper. As a result, this is now more visible on some colors within the Uncoated Pantone Guide. This appearance has a minimal effect on the color qualities of each Pantone color, as reinforced during our measurements in producing the Uncoated Pantone Formula Guide.