

Specialty Colorant Information

Kirk Specialty Colorant is a latex based paint specifically formulated for Christmas Trees. Its base is very similar to our traditional colorants we have been using for many years. When asked about safety issues on our colorants we believe our colorants to be safe.

Coverage

There are a lot of factors that affect coverage

- Wind
- Temperature
- Method of application
- Size of tree

Approximately 1 quart per tree (5-6')

- 3 to 4 trees per gallon
- 8 to 10 trees per 2 ½ gallon jug

Standard additional retail charge for colored or flocked trees is \$5.00/ft.

- A suggestion may be a flat fee of \$25 for a painted tree

Method of Application

The best way we have found to apply the colorant is with a pump-up (pressure) sprayer. **80-03 tip.**

We **do NOT** recommend using backpack sprayers due to their high risk of clogging up.

One of the most efficient application methods, is to use the airless sprayer to quickly and lightly circle the tree and then follow up using a hand sprayer to touch up and fill in where the airless may not have covered.

Application hints:

- Be sure to use proper Protective equipment such as gloves, safety glasses, face mask
- Do NOT paint trees in the high heat of summer for winter retail.
- Make sure to wear clothing meant for painting as there may be overspray that can get on clothing.
- Use a drop cloth under the tree to prevent the ground from overspray
- Do Not apply in windy or wet conditions
 - Wind will cause overspray to nearby trees and result in over consumption of colorant
- Drying time is approximately 2 hours
 - Drying time is weather dependent
 - Once fully dry the paint should not flake off

What happens to a tree that is colored in the fall and is not cut, will the colorant damage the tree? We do not recommend coloring more trees than what you are going to sell from a cost standpoint; as the tree will have to be repainted the next year to cover the new growth.

- We have found the colorant to affect different species of trees differently
 - Fraser, Grand, Noble, Douglas that we painted last season produced new growth this year with no apparent affect
 - Black Hills Spruce had 2nd year needle loss where tree was painted
 - Tree did produce new growth