



TECHNICAL NOTES:
COLOUR AND LIGHT
REFLECTIVE VALUES

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Dulux recommends the use of colours with Light Reflectance Value (LRV) > 35 on light weight or panelised building systems such as fibre cement, AAC and EIFS substrates including Exsulite. Light Reflectance Value (LRV) is the proportion of light that a surface reflects compared to the amount of light that falls on that surface. Dark, matt and/or textured surfaces absorb a lot of light and have low Light Reflectance Value's. Light, glossy and/or smooth surfaces reflect most of the light that falls on them and have high Light Reflectance Value's. The LRV of an individual colour indicates the amount of light and heat that individual colour will reflect. Black has a LRV value of zero and absorbs all light and heat. In practice this means limiting the use of very dark (hot) colours where the resultant temperatures generated will increase thermal stresses resulting in excessive movement and accelerated colour fade. Colour and the influence it has in absorbing heat is well known and a factor that we recommend be considered in any application (Lightweight or Solid Construction) in addition to the aesthetic of the colour choice. The impact a colour may have on any walling element is heavily influenced by other factors such as the site location, design, placement of control joints, build processes and building aspect.