Facts on Bumper Colors

Overview – Sometimes the original bumper and accent pieces may not match the factory’s vehicle body color even before the repair. In addition, sometimes even metal and plastic pieces painted right next to each other at the same time and with the same paint, may not match. Here are some possible explanations:

1. A color can vary depending on the substrate on which it is painted. For example, the evaporation rates of paint and related products may vary over metal or plastic. A longer rate gives a flake pigment additional time to “settle” which often darkens the face of the color.

2. The body was painted on a production line at the factory, while other parts, such as the bumper and trim pieces, may be painted at another location using a different application method.

3. Slight adjustments can be made during application creating a lighter or darker color, or causing the metallics or mica elements to lay down differently. A best practice is to paint the bumper in the same position that it will be mounted on the vehicle.

4 Light reflects differently on curved and flat surfaces causing the appearance of a color shift.