



Overview

Nichiha Architectural Wall Panels (AWP) and Sierra Premium Shake are available in a wide array of textures and colors ranging from smooth to wood plank to brick. Some AWP are offered in custom colors via our Color Xpressions System. Finish colors are always surface applied (non-integral). The standard color panels and boards and custom color panels undergo different finishing processes, which vary depending on the panel look. In any case, Nichiha provides a standard 15-year Finish Warranty. The processes and general paint information are outlined here:

Standard Colors

Finish Paint Type: Various, typically water-based acrylic resin

General Process: Standard colors are machine-applied at factories in Japan. Panels receive a base coat, followed by a middle color coat, a top color coat, and finally a clear coat.

Light Reflectance Values (LRVs) of many standard colors are provided in the [AWP Test Summaries](#).

Color Xpressions System

Finish Paint Type: Water based acrylic resin

General Process: Custom colors are machine-applied at a factory in Macon, GA. Stock panels with a base/primer coat receive two layers of finish color followed by a top clear coat.

Safety Data Sheets for Color Xpressions paints and clear coat are available on our website in the [Resource Center](#). Expand the Install Support filter and select SDS Sheets.

Finish Durability

Paint/finish layers protect the siding against natural environmental factors such as sunlight (UV) and moisture. The paint layers help prevent water absorption by the siding material and are important to the durable lifespan of the panels and boards. Therefore, Nichiha finishes undergo accelerated weathering laboratory testing that simulates more than 15-year exposure to UV, heat, and moisture. Fade or color change (delta E) typically remains less than three, which is the amount required for noticeable change.

Similarly, real world static exposure testing of the panels is also conducted on a southern island of Japan, which has a boundary tropical/humid subtropical climate (similar to Miami). Over the course of six years, the exposure testing simulates 20 years of weathering in Tokyo (analogous to Atlanta). The net fading (delta E) is also in the less-than-noticeable range (≤ 3).

Finish Cleaning

Refer to the [installation guides and the AWP Maintenance Manual](#) for more detailed information. The silicone-containing clear coat on most AWP types is resistant to absorbing dirt. Typically, just water from a simple garden hose with a basic low-pressure spray nozzle is sufficient for routine cleaning of AWP.

