



## Mr. Yard, Inc.

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## Dyed Mulches

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Dyed mulches require a little extra planning, but their long-lived color makes the effort worthwhile!

We carry only the highest quality mulches, dyed or natural color. All of our mulch is processed here in Ohio.

We buy local, so please buy local.

### Our dyed mulches

Color lasts all season (see information)

Virgin product from the timber industry

All natural, organic dye

## The Coloring Process

To understand how colored mulch may occasionally experience product “washing”, it is necessary to have a general understanding of how the color-enriching process works. The colorant is dispersed in a water-based solution in the production process. Water is the carrier that enables the colorant to coat the wood fiber surface. While water is of great value to help evenly coat the wood fiber with rich color, it also acts as a carrier between the wood and colorant particles until fully dried. When the mulch is completely dry the colorant particles bond to the wood and cannot be broken just by adding additional water, such as rain or a sprinkler system. The bond needs time to form between the colorant particle and the wood fiber. This is referred to as **critical drying time**.

There is no steadfast rule on what is the required **critical drying time**. Base fiber moisture content, production inventory time and weather all contribute to the variability, yielding a wide range in possible drying time requirements. Experience tells us the range of 24-72 hours is a comfortable window. The timeframe is based on the when the product is installed, not produced.

## For best results when using a dyed mulch:

- Dump dyed mulches on tarps to avoid discoloration of concrete. If tarp is not available, wet the surface and then wash area with soap and water after the mulch has been moved.
- Avoid exposing dyed mulch to rain or sprinklers for 24-48 hours after applying mulch to your landscaping.
- If dyed mulch has been delivered and rain is expected, do not spread the mulch. Cover it with a tarp until there will be 24-48 hours of no rain. Do not install the mulch if rain is in the forecast. If possible, you should try to find a window of no less than 48 hours of rain free weather as critical drying time is needed.
- Rinse landscaping tools immediately after use to avoid staining and use gloves when handling dyed mulches.
- In the event colorant dries on surfaces, use SimpleGreen® cleaning solution to remove stain.

### Renewing “Washed” Product

In the event that “washing” (dye rinsing off) does occur, there are options available to amend your mulched areas. If the material has been delivered and is in a bulk pile, the washed product can simply be mixed in with the rest of the mulch as it should be just a surface wash. There will be enough colored mulch in the pile to blend in with the surface material. There will be no product loss.

If the material has been applied to the landscape, there are two options to remedy the situation.

1) Lightly rake the surface. Colorant loss is normally limited to the top half inch of material. Mulch is normally applied at a two-inch depth leaving plenty of material to cover the surface once it’s flipped over.

2) Top coat the surface with an additional half inch of fresh color-enriched product.

**Avoid scheduling your delivery and / or application on a day when heavy rain is forecasted. If you do take delivery and rain is in the forecast, make sure to cover the pile with a tarp.**