

TECH TIPS

Close, Closer and Closest

The PPG Color Variant System is Your Key to a Great Paint Match, Every Time.

Everyone has seen it. Take two vehicles of the exact same make, model and even year, painted the same OE color, put them side by side, and there's a chance that color will differ visibly from one vehicle to the other. While every manufacturer has formulas for the exact color selected by its designers— colors known in the automotive refinish business as “prime”— vehicles will often be factory finished with a formulation that is ever so slightly different, producing a color known as a “variant.” To help paint technicians find great matches every time, PPG offers a comprehensive set of color tools composed of an annual color chip book, several different formula retrieval systems and the PPG Color Variant System. The PPG Color Variant System is updated several times per year. To make the system even more accurate, the cards are sprayed with actual PPG paint finishes, then topped with clear in the case of basecoat/clearcoat formulations. Each variant card has a center sight hole, so the card can be placed over (not just next to) the factory finish for the most accurate comparison. With this system, color matching is accomplished in six easy steps:

- **Locate OE Color Code on vehicle**
- **Use the code to check for variant colors and chips using PPG Access[®], PPG TouchMix[®], PPG Online, or the Index pages of the PPG Color Variant System.**
- **Select the corresponding color deck and chip pages.**
- **Compare the chips to the vehicle being repaired, and choose the best match.**
- **Mix the selected color.**
- **Prep the repair for blending and complete the job.**

The system has become increasingly thorough since it was first introduced. In 2003, PPG doubled the number of the body colors in its system and, in 2004, more accent and under-hood colors were added.

For information, or for help with the system, call **Auto Body Supply** or ask your salesman.

