Amerimulch® is a member of the ChromaScape® family of brands.
For more information, go to www.chromascape.com.

Colorant Environmental and Safety Data

Amerimulch® is committed to the safety of homeowners, families and pets, of our customers and their employees, and to the safety of our environment. Mulch manufactured with colorants by Amerimulch is just as safe, if not safer, than conventional wood mulch, and just like conventional mulches, it has benefits for the plants that are in the beds and deters weed growth.

Our colorants have been formulated to be as safe and effective as possible to provide consumers with mulch products that are attractive, safe, and cost-effective. We followed recommendations by the Mulch and Soil Council and submitted our Heartland® Ultra Colorants to an independent, accredited laboratory for testing. The colorants were studied for a variety of dangers from acute exposure, including tests to find any dangers that could occur through ingestion, inhalation, dermal contact and eye contact. The results were that our colorants qualify for classification in Category IV, the safest category that the testing method recognizes. Here are the areas of safety concern that we at Amerimulch have addressed, consistent with industry leadership:

What’s in the colorant? Is there anything in the mulch colorants that is dangerous? Anything can be dangerous, if improperly used in too large a quantity, but Heartland Enriched Colorants by Amerimulch are not more dangerous than common household substances like vinegar or liquid dish soap. The primary ingredients in our colorants are pigments based on iron oxides or carbon black, with water as a main carrier. Iron oxide pigments are often used in food container coloring or in cosmetics. While some forms of carbon black can be considered hazardous if they have extremely small particles that are airborne in breathable quantities, the form of carbon black we use in the mulch industry has larger flake sizes that are suspended in liquid until mixed with wood fiber; therefore, the carbon black we use poses no threat to consumers - or to workers who lay the mulch or at the yards that produce the mulch.

What about long-term exposure of your colorants to the environment? Are there any concerns about the environmental status of your products? None of our mulch colorants require any federal environmental reporting under any applicable Federal regulations, including SARA sec 313, RCRA (Resource Conservation & Recovery Act), CERCLA (Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation & Liability Act), and TSCA (Toxic Substance Control Act). However, local and state regulations vary tremendously, and some of the materials in our colorants are subject to local regulations. While we do not believe that the amounts contained in these materials pose any threat to human health or to pets, plants, or fish, they may still require reporting under state and local rules, so ask your Amerimulch Regional Sales Manager if you need to take special care in handling or reporting the use of Amerimulch colorant products.
**Do your colorants have any heavy metals, lead or cadmium-based colors that are dangerous?**

Heavy metals occur in nature, including soil and wood, in trace amounts. In tests commissioned from independent laboratories, none of our mulch colorants have tested above any reporting threshold levels for any heavy metals. That means they contain no more heavy metals than regular wood mulches, or than the soil upon which the mulch is placed. Our customers’ satisfaction and product quality are always our primary focus. We do our best to make sure our products are safe and environmentally friendly. See the chart, below, to compare test results of Amerimulch materials to the United States Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) maximum pollutant concentration levels for certain materials allowed in soils and composts:

| HEAVY METALS: Regulatory Limits on Heavy Metals Applied to Soils¹ | Parts Per Million |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Arsenic | Cadmium | Chromium | Copper | Lead | Mercury | Zinc |
| Soil | 75 | 85 | 3000 | 4300 | 420 | 840 | 7500 |
| Sunburst Red | <0.79 | 20 | 80 | 220 | 14 | <0.019 | 55 |
| Black | <0.77 | <0.38 | 1.3 | 5 | <0.96 | <0.02 | <1.9 |
| Ameri-Red | <0.75 | 18 | 69 | 30 | 4.5 | <0.02 | 65 |


**What are VOCs? Why are they objectionable? Are they in your colorants?**

VOC stands for Volatile Organic Compound. Many coatings, such as solvent-based paints, release these chemicals into the atmosphere as coated surfaces dry, where they are bad for the ozone layer. Amerimulch colorants are water-based, not solvent-based, but our colorants may contain trace amounts of VOCs. Depending on the shade and color, **they can all be classified as either “VOC-Free” or “Low VOC” based on EPA guidelines used in the paint industry – the closest industry relevant to our products.** Of course, as mentioned before, there is enormous variety in local regulations, and restrictions on air quality that vary from state to state and jurisdiction to jurisdiction. While end consumers have nothing to worry about, mulch producers should check with local air quality regulatory authorities to ensure compliance with all local and state regulations.

**What are your colorants composed of?**

Heartland Enriched Colorants by Amerimulch consist of the following materials:

- Pigments/colorants – organic and inorganic: 40 to 70% of the Heartland Colorant.
- Water – main vehicle carrier: from 15 to 30% of the Heartland Colorant.
- Humectants– may be used for freeze depression: from 0.5 to 4% of the Heartland Colorant.
- Resins – to help the coating and adhesion of the pigment to the wood fiber: 5 to 30% of the Heartland Colorant.
- Additives – to help the colorant’s adhesion to the wood fiber: from 0.5 to 5% of the Heartland Colorant. Some additives can be hazardous in concentrated form but Amerimulch colorants use them in such extremely small quantities that they are not a health risk. Any of the additives we use in our formulations that do meet the OSHA reporting requirements on our incoming MSDS sheets from our suppliers are NOT used in a concentration greater than 1% in our outgoing liquid colorants, so they do not need to be disclosed on the MSDS sheets and thus are considered safe.

If you have any further questions about the safety of our colorants, or for support data regarding the safety of Heartland Enriched Colorants by Amerimulch, please call or contact your Amerimulch Regional Sales Manager at 888-556-3304.