NIA Color and Finish Library

Choose a color family, then define the finish with a physical sample. NIA offers architectural two-step coloring and organic dye options. Color names are a starting point: the process, material and surface preparation belong in the final selection too.

Architectural color families

Family	Process and line	Selection guidance
Champagne	Two-step coloring / large line	Discuss the intended shade and approve its acceptable range.
Bronze	Two-step coloring / large line	Select the depth of bronze using physical reference samples.
Architectural black	Two-step coloring / large line	Identify this process explicitly when specifying black.

Illustrative colors only; not measured NIA finish standards. Approve a physical sample for production.

Organic color families

Family	Documented line availability	Selection guidance
Organic black	Large and small lines	Specify organic black separately from architectural black.
Red	Small line	Review the desired shade and exposure requirements.
Blue	Small line	Review the desired shade and exposure requirements.

Illustrative colors only; not measured NIA finish standards. Approve a physical sample for production.

Additional small-line organic colors can be discussed for project needs. Availability and suitability require review; a color shown in another supplier's collection does not establish an equivalent NIA finish.

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Planning and next steps

Choose the full finish

Etching affects surface appearance before color is added. NIA lists caustic etch on both lines and acid etch on the large line. Include the preparation in your sample request so the agreed appearance covers texture as well as shade.

Information to send with a sample request

• Color family and process, plus any existing physical reference or supplier code.

• Part drawing, alloy and temper, overall dimensions, and visible surfaces.

• Indoor or outdoor exposure, project quantity, and adjoining parts that must coordinate.

• Preferred texture, any specified thickness or performance standard, and the approval deadline.

Use samples to approve appearance

Screens and photographs are useful for browsing. They do not reproduce a metallic finish reliably enough to serve as the sole acceptance standard. Agree on the physical reference, permitted variation and viewing conditions before production.

Common questions

Can I order by color name alone?

Include the color name, but also identify the coloring process, preparation and approved sample reference.

Is every black finish the same?

No. NIA lists two-step architectural black and organic black. Confirm which process the project requires.

Can I use another manufacturer's chip?

Send it as a target for review. Discuss feasibility before specifying an exact match.

Discuss a finish sample

Contact NIA with your drawing and project requirements to review the next step.

Sources: NIA Capabilities 2025, pages 7-8 and 10-11; large-line length corrected by NIA to 330 inches; Aluminum Anodizers Council - Specifying Anodized Finishes.