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Ultramarine Pigments for Colouring Plastics

The origin and development of Ultramarine as a general pigment - including the manufacturing process - has been described in another publication, 'Ultramarine – The Eternal Pigment'. This explained how, having been in use for thousands of years, Ultramarine has found its way into many and varied applications, each of which has its own demands on pigment properties. What is required of an Ultramarine pigment used for colouring plastics?

When used to colour plastics, it is important that a grade of Ultramarine pigment has consistent colour and dispersion properties. It must be low in unreacted sulphur so that odours are not released when it is heated to plastics processing temperatures and it must not contain excessively high moisture. For sensitive applications where regulatory approval is required, it must also have a low trace metal content. These properties are much less important in most other applications in which Ultramarine is used. It is normal for Ultramarine manufacturers to recommend a specific range of grades for use in colouring plastics in which these properties have been optimised.

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