



# Is there color in your food safety program?

With a natural presence of allergens, pathogens and foreign particulates in the air, food processing facilities face the constant threat of product contamination.

Since most hazards can be avoided before they lead to a recall, color-coding has become one of the top trends for industry leaders. Assigning colors to common tools is a simple and economic control measure to reduce the risk of cross-contamination.

The concept of color-coding is based on the guidelines of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP), a management system that addresses food safety.

Color-coded programs help establish critical zones and control points. It gives visibility to the borders for each operational area, allowing them to be facilitated effectively by their own standards. Users also know when tools are designated for a particular zone so they don't get moved.

## How can smaller facilities benefit?

It can be a challenge to stay ahead of new regulations and rising concerns, so taking precautionary steps is a very proactive approach. Internal programs also help with enforcing rules when there are limited supervisory roles.

Since color-coded programs are implemented internally rather than through a federal authority, companies can choose a system that meets their organizational goals. For instance, a single color could be used for each employee, shift or project.

## What is the big picture?

Contamination is a threat regardless of location, equipment, processes, employees or materials, so each company has the responsibility to choose how they want to mitigate risk.

While there are no specific regulations that make color-coding mandatory, federal agencies such as OSHA and the FDA endorse the practice and look favorably on organizations that adopt it.



MATERIAL	BRISTLES	COLORS	MM	AUTOCLAVABLE
Nitrile Rubber - FDA Approved	Nylon		40, 50	✓
Silicone	Nylon		40, 50	

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Nitrile Rubber - FDA Approved		40, 50	✓
Nitrile Rubber - Antistatic		40, 50, 70	
Silicone		40, 50	

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