

20 Ways to Share the Colour Knowledge

Colour Captures Attention, Enhances Productivity, Improves Communications and Helps Boost Sales.

Research has proven that using colour in business documents can have measurable results. The following examples have been selected from a variety of sources to demonstrate the power your black-and-white documents can achieve when produced in colour.



Capture Attention

- **Colour emphasizes critical information and conveys a sense of professionalism.** Your company's first impression is the most important one. Using colour demonstrates that you mean business. The decision whether to read or reject pamphlets and direct mail pieces is made by readers in just 2.5 seconds. Using colour can keep your materials on the desk and out of the wastebasket.
- **Colour increases readers' attention spans and recall by 82%.** Safety notices, warnings and vital technical information are more likely to be remembered if they stand out in colour. That can help decrease costly and time-consuming errors throughout your company.
- **Colour gains readership by 80%.** Adding colour to product guides can help critical information get read, helping ensure that customers understand how to operate the products they buy from you. That alone can reduce the number of unnecessary service calls and save your company time and money.
- **Colour makes an impression that is 39% more memorable.** Direct mail pieces and collateral leave a lasting impression if they're in colour. That makes follow-up calls more successful.
- **Telephone listings printed in colour can increase response by 44%.** Amidst hundreds of black-and-white listings in a telephone directory, a colour entry can really stand out. This can lead to increased exposure and increased business.
- **People are 55% more likely to pick up a full-colour piece of mail first.** How do you get a customer to open mail from you quickly? Simply use colour on the envelope. By capturing their attention, you are more likely to get a speedy response.

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Enhance Productivity

- **Colour reduces search time by as much as 80%.** Contracts, insurance policies and other lengthy documents can be made more understandable by highlighting the important information with colour. Customers will spend less time tying up your customer service representatives with confusing questions, increasing your operation's overall efficiency.
- **Colour reduces errors by 80%.** Improperly completed forms and applications can bog down data entry and customer service departments. Highlighting important information and instructions can help customers fill out forms correctly the first time
- **Information can be located 70% faster if it's in colour.** Executives have little time as it is. Speeding up the time it takes to locate and understand important information can significantly improve your company's efficiency. For example, the 1.5 hours an executive spends reading black-and-white documents every week can be cut to a 0.5 hour by using colour. That means less nonessential time and more billable time.
- **Document sorting improves by 15% when highlight colour is used.** Improving the ease with which documents can be identified, sorted and filed can reduce the number of people assigned to the task. That can mean real cost savings during peak seasons when temporary help is brought on board.

- **Highlight colour improves search time by 39% compared to using different fonts.** Administrative personnel can spend less time looking for information and more time performing critical tasks if the information is easier to find. Using colour to highlight it can make the difference.
- **Colour can increase payment response by up to 30%.** By highlighting the amount owing and the due date with colour, a sense of urgency is added to invoices. This can help make your customers pay their bills faster, thereby improving your cash flow.
- **People are 2.5% more likely to pay the full amount when it's shown in colour** Some companies have found that highlighting the amount due on an invoice actually causes customers to pay the full amount owing. That reduces additional invoicing and improves your business' cash flow.

Improve Communication

- **Colour increases comprehension by as much as 73%.** Your prospects and potential customers can understand your message faster and more clearly. That speeds sales presentations and makes the whole process run more effectively.
- **Colour increases learning and retention by 78%.** Educating your technical and service staff is a time-consuming process that can be drastically shortened by preparing the materials in colour.
- **Colour can boost survey participation by 80%.** Low response on customer satisfaction surveys can be dramatically improved and repeat mailings made unnecessary by using colour to grab attention.

- **Reader comprehension has been found to be 14% better with highlight colour than with bold text.** Training sessions can be more effective when the presentation materials and guides are produced using highlight colour, rather than using just bold type.
- **Colour increases motivation by up to 80%.** Getting response from employees can often be more difficult than getting response from customers. Using colour on memos, correspondence and posted notices from payroll, human resources and personnel can help motivate your employees to respond in a timely fashion.

Boost Sales

- **Colour helps sell up to 80% more.** Collateral materials, sales brochures and other consumer communications can help generate more sales with the application of colour.
- **Colour can improve brand recognition by up to 80%.** Local retailers, realtors, consultants and others can cut through the clutter with the help of colour. Improved brand recognition can lead to increased sales.

Sources:

Studies: Loyola College, Maryland, U.S.A., by Ellen Hoadley, Ph.D., Laurette Simmons, Ph.D., and Faith Gilroy, Ph.D. Case & Company, Management Consultants. Bureau of Advertising, Color in Newspaper Advertising. Maritz Motivation, Inc., Southern Illinois.

Published material: The Persuasive Properties of Colour, Marketing Communications; What's Working in Direct Marketing. How to Use Color to Sell, Cahners Publishing Company. Grasp Facts Fast with Color Copying, Modern Office Procedures.

