

Soft drinks

Caramel colour is the most widely used colorant in the soft drink industry. Because of the low pH of most carbonated beverages, E150d (Class IV) caramel colours are required for their acid stability.

Generally the caramel colours are mixed in syrups or concentrates, which are then blended with carbonated water. Alternatively the syrup and water can be blended prior to the carbonation.

In addition to providing excellent reddish to brown hues, caramel colour can enhance soft drinks foaming characteristics, mouth feel, and flavour. Typical examples are colas, root beers, ginger ales, etc.

In beverage concentrates, caramel colour has an emulsifying effect with the flavour oil. Caramel colour also functions as an emulsifying agent and helps eliminate the formation of certain types of flocculation.

Caramel colour's light protective quality also assists in preventing oxidation of the flavouring components in bottled beverages. Sethness-Roquette caramel colour is also very stable in various processing and packaging conditions.

Beverage manufacturers sometimes use the terms of "single strength" and "double strength". They are general terms describing the relative colour strength of caramel colour and may cover different ranges of colour. Double strength caramel colour (our caramel 4400) was originally developed for use in dietetic beverages as it reduces the caloric content contributed to the beverage by the caramel colour to about 25% of that contributed by a single strength (our caramels 4160 or 4220).

However, double strength caramel colour also offers greater cost efficiency, which has contributed to its rapid acceptance. It is best to evaluate the specific application to determine the appropriate caramel colour.

The most popular caramel colours used for soft drinks application are our caramels **4400, 4160, 4220**.

Approximate usage level: in finished drinks from 0.4% for double strength up to 0.8% for single strength.

Technical properties: Stable in phosphoric acid and citric acid.

Liquid caramel E150d (Class IV)	Single Strength		Double Strength
	4160	4220	4400
Tinctorial power 560 nm-0,1 %	0,140 – 0,175	0,200 – 0,240	0,380 – 0,420
Colour EBC	18800	26400	48000
Hue Index	4,3	4,5	4,2
pH (as is)	2,4 – 3,4	2,4 – 3,4	2,3 – 3,3
Ionic Character	negative	negative	negative
Specific Gravity at 20°C	1,340 – 1,360	1,316 – 1,340	1,251 – 1,271
Viscosity at 25°C (cps)	600	350	80
Dry Substance (%)	70	66	53

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