



Founded in 1927 by Robert C. Solomon, Solomon Colors began as a pioneer in transforming mining byproducts into pigments for the cement and mortar industries. Over nearly a century, the company has grown into a global leader in architectural concrete enhancement. It is headquartered in Springfield, Illinois, as a family- and employee-owned enterprise emphasizing innovation, quality, and exceptional customer service with an average employee tenure exceeding a decade. The company has expanded its offerings through strategic acquisitions over the years, including Brickform for decorative products and Lythic for polished concrete solutions.

Today, Solomon Colors is the largest U.S.-owned producer of iron oxide pigments and a trusted supplier of integral and liquid colors, precision dispensing systems, and advanced reinforcement solutions. The company serves ready-mix concrete producers, contractors, distributors, architects, and precast manufacturers across North America, with facilities in Springfield, Illinois and Rialto, California, and training centers in Texas and Illinois. Solomon Colors also maintains active memberships in key industry organizations, including the American Shotcrete Association (ASA), American Concrete Institute (ACI),

National Ready Mixed Concrete Association (NRMCA), and others, reflecting its commitment to advancing concrete technology and best practices.

A standout product in Solomon Colors' portfolio is UltraFiber 500, an alkali-resistant cellulose microfiber reinforcement that meets the ASTM D7357 standard specification for Cellulose Fibers for Fiber-Reinforced Concrete. UltraFiber 500 is made in the USA and has been in use for more than 20 years. It's known for its ability to improve finishing quality, control cracks, enhance hydration, and bond with concrete, and is also marketed as an "invisible" fiber, meaning it doesn't typically appear as a noticeable blemish in the finished concrete.

KEY DETAILS ABOUT ULTRAFIBER 500:

- **Properties:** It is a cellulose fiber that is alkali-resistant and provides excellent secondary reinforcement (not a structural reinforcement).
- **Benefits:** Improved finishing quality, crack control, better hydration and bonding, and an invisible fiber for decorative concrete.
- **Dispensing:** It is designed for use with our automated dispensing systems using 600 lb (270 kg) bulk bags or provided in 1 or 1.5 lb (0.45 or 0.68 kg) water-soluble bags.



Fig. 1: Mount Pleasant LRT station on Toronto's Eglinton Crosstown line. The 2022 ASA Infrastructure Project of the Year Award-Winner incorporated UltraFiber 500 micro-cellulose fibers in the 70% slag shotcrete mixture for its 1.5 m (4.9 ft) thick, heavily reinforced underground walls. All photos courtesy of Shaun Radomski, M.Sc., P.Eng. Senior Materials Engineer Thurber Engineering Ltd.



Fig. 2: Final coat was shot, cut, and finished to the specified line and grade of shooting wires. UltraFiber 500 alkali-resistant cellulose fiber was incorporated into the mixture to enhance pumpability, shootability, adhesion, cohesion, stackability, and finishability of the mixture.

CORPORATE MEMBER PROFILE

- **Applications:** It is suitable for various concrete applications, including slabs, decks, paving, shotcreting, and architectural/decorative work.
- **Invisible:** Unlike polypropylene fibers, UltraFiber500 is hydrophilic, does not float, and is virtually unnoticeable in finished concrete.
- **Renewable Resource:** It is derived from renewable resources, unlike polypropylene fibers.

Independent testing has found the use of the UltraFiber500 fibers in shotcrete applications to be very beneficial! When added to the shotcreted concrete mixture, the UltraFiber500 enhances pumpability, shootability, adhesion, cohesion, stackability, and finishability of the mixture. The fiber also controls plastic and autogenous shrinkage cracking. It has been reported to mitigate excess bleeding of mixtures common with the use of newer L1 (low carbon) cement. Shotcrete contractors report that due to the fiber's ability to reduce rebound and build out in thicker



Fig. 3: Wooden floats were used to close the surface.



Fig. 4: In this close-up review of the steel trowel finish wall, the shotcrete mix incorporates 70% slag cement and UltraFiber 500, displaying excellent finishability, creating finished surfaces without any pulls or tears.

layers, the cost to add the fibers is more than offset by the savings in labor and material!

Solomon Colors supports UltraFiber 500 with comprehensive technical resources, including automated dispensing systems, environmental product declarations (EPDs), and ICC certification for sustainability credits. The company's dedicated technical team and distribution network ensure seamless integration and performance for shotcrete professionals globally.

Solomon Colors continues to drive innovation in the concrete industry, delivering reliable, high-quality solutions that enhance project outcomes and longevity.



Fig. 5: The finished surfaces were free of voids, sags, tears, or plastic shrinkage cracks attributed to the use of the UltraFiber 500 Cellulose Micro-Fiber.

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