

THE VEST MAN

Making Vest Carriers in Light Colors

Many times departments will ask us to make our vest carriers in a light color like gray, light blue, tan or silver tan. There are many problems that develop from making vests in these colors, below are some of the issues that we have experienced that have caused our clients many problems.

1. We realize that departments have invested a great deal of time and tradition into your uniform, and with the growing trend and logic of wearing external vests, unfortunately light colored uniforms face many challenges. For example, if your department wears a light colored uniform shirt and you were to line up 10 of your officers/deputies right now in front of you, estimate how many different shades of your uniform shirt would you see?

The point is, even if we made a vest carrier that perfectly matched a brand new uniform shirt, it still would not match every shirt worn by your personnel because shirts fade and with time can become a different color when compared to a new shirt. Additionally, our fabric does NOT fade, so the vest's color will stay consistent while the shirt color won't stay the same.

2. Although we can make any color you want, there are several challenges with orders in which we don't stock the fabric color. Foremost, there are minimum order requirements to dye fabric (set by our fabric maker, not us) that require hundreds of vest orders to make it reasonable to order a custom color dye.
3. Light colors retain dirt and stains more noticeably than dark colors. This seems obvious and although our material is very easy to clean, skin oils and dirt can make a vest look bad fast on light colored vest carriers. Not to mention that just loading ammo magazines or a simple pen that has some excess ink on it can ruin a vest with unwanted marks
4. Using a contrasting darker color vest over a light colored uniform shirt alleviates the problem of attempting a perfect match to the uniform shirt and keeps officers looking sharp in the field. Having your shirt collar and your shirt sleeves and patches visible helps to maintain the look of your original uniform

Again, we are here to do whatever is needed to make your department happy with our product, but it is also important to share what we have learned over the years. Please feel free to ask for our color swatches and know that we are here to do all we can to help you design the perfect vest carrier.