




# OSU Minimum Web Accessibility Standards (rev. 06/30/2004)

<http://www.wac.ohio-state.edu/standards/>



**Standard 3 -- Color.** Web pages shall be designed so that all information conveyed with color is also available without color, for example from context or markup .

**Examples:**  
**3.1 -- If color is used to convey information alternative indicators, such as an asterisk (\*), are used in conjunction. .**

## Color -- Dos and Don'ts

See also: [Standard 4 -- Contrast](#).

Do	Don ' t
Use color to emphasize and draw attention to certain content.	Use color to convey information (e.g., all the blue text is required reading).

**Why:** Using color alone to identify links, buttons, navigation paths, or other content means those who cannot distinguish the colors or those with colors turned off or using monochrome monitors (such as on PDAs or cell phones) are unable to use your page.

**How:** Along with color, use graphic symbols such as underlining, asterisks, or borders to identify special content (including links). Label buttons and navigation bars with text. Test your page by printing on a black and white printer.

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Do	Don ' t
Use color to highlight links; use underline and/or bold as well.	Use only color to distinguish links.

**Why:** Style sheets allow you to turn-off the default underlining of links. While these may be advantageous for menu items (which are usually distinguished by location, background color, and border as well) links in the body of the page need to be clearly differentiated from other text. A good way to frustrate and alienate users is to make them "hunt" for the links on your page.

**How:** Do not turn off underlining for links in the body of your page or use other non-color distinction such as bold, asterisk, or other character or symbol.

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**Get more help with information and color, read the [iGeek article "Color to convey information."](#)**

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