**Copy Fill Color in a Table**

There is a way to copy the fill color from one row to another.

There are a few ways that you can approach this issue. One is to simply use the tools that are available in Word. Follow these steps:

1. Select the row that is already filled with the desired color.
2. Display the Design tab of the ribbon.
3. Click the down-arrow to the right of the Shading tool, in the Table Styles group. (The tool looks like a spilling bucket of paint.) Word displays a palette of colors.
4. Click on More Colors. Word displays the Colors dialog box. (See Figure 1.) The color of the selected row should already show in the dialog box.



**Figure 1.** The Colors dialog box.

1. Click OK. (Note that you made no changes in the dialog box; you just clicked OK.)
2. Select the other rows in the table whose background color you want to change.
3. Click on the Shading tool on the Design tab of the ribbon. Your desired color is applied to the selected rows.

After you apply the desired color, if you want to apply it elsewhere (perhaps in another table or in some cells you missed), all you need to do is select the cells and press **F4**. The shading is repeated on the selected cells.

If you need to do this quite a bit with a number of tables or in a number of documents, you may want to consider using a macro to do the shading. A handy little macro is the one below:

Sub ShadeTable()

 Dim backColor As Long

 Dim foreColor As Long

 If Selection.Information(wdWithInTable) Then

 With Selection.Tables(1)

 backColor = .Cell(1, 1).Shading.BackgroundPatternColor

 foreColor = .Cell(1, 1).Shading.ForegroundPatternColor

 .Shading.BackgroundPatternColor = backColor

 .Shading.ForegroundPatternColor = foreColor

 End With

 Else

 MsgBox "Put the insertion point in a table"

 End If

End Sub

The macro shades an entire table based on the shading used in the first cell of the first row of the table. All you need to do is make sure you place the insertion point somewhere within the table before running it. This macro is a variation of the macro mentioned at the following website:

<http://www.wordbanter.com/showthread.php?t=84194>

here is the macro form that site.

Sub TableBackColor()
' set the background color of
' an entire table the same as
' that of the first cell

If Not Selection.Information(wdWithInTable) Then
MsgBox "Put the cursor in a table"
Exit Sub
End If

Dim backColor As Long
Dim foreColor As Long

With Selection.Tables(1)
backColor = .Cell(1, 1).Shading.BackgroundPatternColor
foreColor = .Cell(1, 1).Shading.ForegroundPatternColor
.Shading.BackgroundPatternColor = backColor
.Shading.ForegroundPatternColor = foreColor
End With
End Sub