

# Cold Weather Precautions

## Technical Bulletin

When temperatures fall, precautions must be taken to ensure material shipments are not damaged by low temperatures. It is equally important that the wet materials be stored and applied at the proper temperature as well as protected from the elements until dry. The following information will help minimize product damage and ensure a proper application is achieved.

1. Do not accept shipments if it is suspected that the material has frozen. It is a good idea to keep a thermometer handy to check the temperature of incoming shipments. If the temperature of the material in a pail is 32° F or below, the shipment has frozen. Do not accept it! It is the recipient's responsibility to verify that the materials' integrity has not been compromised by cold temperatures.
2. Always store wet materials so that they are protected from freezing.
3. Wet products such as finish and base coat must always be applied when the ambient and surface temperature is at least 40° F and rising (50° F for Specialty Finishes in all cases described herein). The temperature must remain above 40° F until the finish is dry. The dry time will vary depending upon temperature, humidity and wind speed. If temperatures fall below 40°F, supplemental heat must be provided. Damp weather will prolong the drying time of all wet materials, especially non-cementitious products.
4. Do not over-water the finish. Over-watering the finish in low temperatures will extend the drying time, making it more susceptible to damage.
5. Efflorescence occurrence is more prevalent during cool weather. Efflorescence is a crystalline and typically white deposit that may appear on the base coat or finish surface, causing the base coat to appear bleached or spotted and the finishes to appear bleached or spotted and seem to lose color. Efflorescence can usually be removed by dry-brushing the base coat or finish surface, and then flushing the surface with plenty of clean water to remove the dislodged salts. Do not apply finish over effloresced base coat.
6. Walls dry slower during cool weather. Take caution if applying finish on a dry day just after an extended rainy period. Walls are likely to be wet. Application of finish over wet walls will result in poor adhesion, change of color, extended drying times, and other undesirable results.

These application guidelines pertain to panelized as well as in-place projects.

If you have any questions regarding cold weather application or storage of materials in cold weather, please contact our Technical Services Department at 800-589-1336.

**Note**

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