

Cold Weather Masonry and Stucco Considerations

Winter weather is upon us again and our Customer Service telephone lines are abuzz with calls from contractors and distributors needing information on how to deal with the problem.

In answering their questions it becomes apparent that many in our industry are lacking a good understanding of good cold weather concrete practices. We offer the following information for your consideration.

1. Masonry mortars cannot withstand freezing temperatures before they reach 500 psi. Once they reach 500 psi freezing temperatures will not negatively affect them.
2. Only Type "M" and Type "S" masonry Mortars and stuccos may be used below 32°F. Type "N", "O" and "K" Mortars and Stuccos must never be used below 32°F as they contain excessive amounts of lime.
3. There are no such things as "antifreeze" for Masonry Mortars, Stucco and Concrete! There are "accelerators" for cold weather Masonry Mortars and Stucco.
4. Accelerators are admixtures that speed up the setting time in order for the mortars to reach 500 psi before they can freeze, thereby preventing their destruction. (See Product Specifications [#8-2](#), [#8-2A](#), [#8-5](#) and [#8-5A](#)).

Please do not hesitate to telephone our Technical Services Department if you have any questions

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