



IMPORTANT:

Please consider placing your order before cold weather hits and transport becomes a serious concern. For smaller orders, also keep in mind that FedEx and UPS do not have heated trucks, meaning your material could face wide temperature fluctuations during its trip.

This bulletin is to inform customers about the “best practices” for shipping, handling, storing, and installing VersaFlex products and systems during cold weather/winter conditions.

While VersaFlex makes no guarantee that following these guidelines will result in a more usable product, and it is our estimation that these suggestions should be touchstones for best practices during the parts of the year with cold weather.

VersaFlex Products: Polyurea SL/Joint Filler & Spray Systems:

Shipping:

When placing material orders in cold temperatures, consider requesting a temperature-regulated trailer to prevent freezing. Please note, frozen material will not be replaced by VersaFlex if shipped in a non-temperature-regulated trailer. Shipping material during the cold winter months will reduce the internal temperature of the material and it will therefore need to be warmed to VersaFlex’s recommended temperature levels prior to installation/application.

Storage:

The product storage temperature must be maintained between 60°F and 95°F, (18°C to 35°C). It is important to keep material in heat boxes or heated rooms to maintain storage temperatures. It is recommended that a Laser Temperature Gun be available for accurate material temperature readings while in storage.

Installation:

Acceptable ambient and substrate temperatures for successful installation of our materials may vary depending on the individual product. Please refer to the product technical data sheet (TDS) for specific recommendations.

The utilization of tank heaters/blankets and hose line heat tape is useful in maintaining the proper material temperature during installation.

TECHNICAL BULLETIN COLD WEATHER ADVISORY

**Additional Notes:**

- The cold makes it difficult for people to move and work for long periods of time.
- In cooler temperatures, material viscosity is increased which puts more strain on proportioning equipment and makes coatings or similar viscosity materials thicker and harder to work with. Monitoring and maintaining recommended temperatures is a simple way to reduce the risk of processing issues that lead to additional costs.
- Temperature cycling during storage or transportation can cause some products to crystalize.
- Applying the material on a cold surface will sometimes cause the material to freeze or thicken to the extent that it is difficult or impossible to apply. This is somewhat less of a problem with our hot spray systems, but common sense applies nonetheless.
- Moisture can freeze on the surface, causing serious application problems and premature coating failure.
- The material may not properly cure or stay soft for long periods of time.
- Be sure it can't wait. It will always be easier to apply in warmer weather.
- Consider the substrate you're coating. Metallic (non-porous) substrates will be easier to coat than wood and concrete (porous) substrates. Wood and concrete will be much more challenging to determine if the surface is damp.
- Do some research. You may ask us if we have "cold" or "fast" cure systems that will be more appropriate for your application. (We probably do.)
- Be sure the material will cure. Some materials, like epoxies, will begin curing as the temperature warms up, and slow down or stop curing, as the temperature drops. Be sure you understand the type of material you're using and don't apply a material that will take two weeks to cure, especially if it's going to get rubbed or damaged in the meantime.
- Be sure the surface is dry. This can be the most challenging problem because you may not be able to see if the surface is dry, particularly if it's below 32°F. A nice trick is to take an area to which you want to apply the coating, and safely warm it up (you can use your hand). Take a tissue, place it on the surface, and place your hand over the tissue. The heat from your hand will cause any ice to melt, and you'll see the dampness on the tissue.
- Care must be given if material is to be warmed to not over heat the material so material is not scorched and pressure does not develop in the container.
- Supplemental heat can be used to warm the area or asset being coated. However, if you do this, be extremely careful if working in a confined space. Pay attention to the substrate temperature, not the air temperature. For example, if coating a fire hydrant and building a tent around the hydrant, don't check the air temperature, check the temperature of the steel.



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