



Cold-Weather Caulking

Caulking during cold weather is one of the most difficult applications to do properly because of several adverse circumstances resulting from the low temperatures. PSI recommends the following:

- During application the temperature should be at least 40°F (4°C) and rising.
- At temperatures near freezing and lower, water condensation and frost formation are possible and care must be taken to assure that all joints to be caulked are dry and frost-free.
- Good workmanship in joint preparation is especially important. All joints must be clean, uniform in dimension and free of all traces of contamination by oil, dust, loose aggregate, rust, protrusions, rebar, sealers, coatings, release agents, waterproofing compounds, etc.
- In the coldest weather, joints are at their maximum width due to contraction of building materials. Joints should be designed so that joint closure in hot weather will not exceed the compression limit of the sealant.
- Sealant storage temperatures of 60 to 75°F (16 to 24°C) are suggested to facilitate mixing, handling and application.
- Cold temperatures slow the cure of most sealants. This should be considered in areas where physical damage may be inflicted on the partially-cured sealant.
- Sealant that remains partially cured for extended periods may develop planes of weakness as a result of continuous joint movement. Accelerator (“kicker”) for PSI-270 is available from Polymeric Systems to reduce worklife and time to full cure at all temperatures.

Additional information

Polymeric Systems is a part of Whitford Worldwide. For more information, please contact Polymeric Systems or Whitford Ltd. at:

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Approximate Worklife Without and With Accelerator

	Without Accelerator	With Accelerator
40°F (4°C)	28 hours	14 hours
77°F (25°C)	8 hours	4 hours
100°F (38°C)	6 hours	3 hours

Approximate Cure Time Without and With Accelerator

	Without Accelerator	With Accelerator
40°F (4°C)	4 days	2 days
77°F (25°C)	2-1/2 days	1-1/2 days
100°F (38°C)	1-1/2 days	18 hours

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