

## Cold Weather Concreting Finisher's Checklist

Like the human body, concrete must be warmed or covered in the winter.

Both fresh and newly-hardened concrete lose moisture and heat rapidly in cold weather. Concrete must be protected against early freezing for strength development.

Planning for cold weather includes the following:

- Proper equipment, manpower and protective measures are required to be in place well ahead of time.
- Consider low slump concrete for flatwork in cold weather to cut setting time and reduce bleed water. Cold air retards the evaporation rate and setting time.
- Use concrete mixes containing accelerating admixtures to protect from freezing.
- Snow and ice must be removed from all concrete forms and the sub base before pouring.
- Make sure ground temperature or other surfaces the concrete comes in contact with are not below freezing temperatures.
- Never begin final finishing operations while bleed water is present.
- Avoid overworking of cooled slabs exhibiting delayed setting characteristics.
- All concrete must be cured – even in cold weather.
- Use insulation blankets or heated enclosures to maintain concrete temperatures above 50 degrees Fahrenheit (50°F) for three to seven days.
- Critical areas like edges and corners require extra protection because they are exposed to heat loss from two or more directions.
- When using artificial heat, make sure all exhaust gasses are vented to the outside.
- All concrete exposed to freeze/thaw cycles and deicing must be protected with a high-quality concrete sealer.
- Insure that you use a mix the ready-mix producer has designed for winters in your area.

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