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Instruction Guide

APPLYING CIM COATINGS IN COLD WEATHER

C.I.M. Industries' literature recommends application temperatures of 60°F (minimum) for coating and 50°F (minimum) for substrates. These temperatures are recommended in order to be consistent with our published application parameters including cure times, pot life, viscosity, surface preparation and application procedures. CIM coatings are routinely applied at lower substrate temperatures including temperatures as low as -20°F. Applications at temperatures below our published recommendations require experienced contractors familiar with CIM products. The following precautions must be observed in cold weather applications:

- The surface must be dry. Condensation at lower temperatures happens more readily, particularly at temperatures approaching 32°F and with wide temperature swings over the course of a day. Frost within the substrate must be avoided at substrate temperatures below 32°F.
- The Premix and Activator should be preheated, typically 1°F above 60°F for each degree that the substrate will be below 50°F. Heated or insulated lines may be required to maintain these temperatures when spraying CIM products. As fluid temperatures rise, working times are significantly shortened.
- All material cure times and solvent loss rates are much slower at lower temperature. Where CIM products cure within several hours at 70°F, it will take up to a week, possibly longer, to reach the same level of cure at 20°F.
- Slower cure times limit the amount of material that can be applied on a vertical surface because CIM products will continue to flow for an extended period of time. Vertical surfaces can only be coated with 15 to 20 mils at a time or significant sags and runs may occur. These surfaces may require at least three coats to achieve the recommended thickness.
- The viscosity of the material will increase as it approaches the substrate temperature. The increased viscosity results in material that can be difficult to move around. Therefore, work at low temperature should be carried out as if the working time was considerably shorter than at 60°F.
- The minimum time required between coats increases with lower temperatures and decreases with higher temperatures.
- Epoxy Primer may need to be excluded at low temperatures.

If you have any concerns about these general guidelines, please call C.I.M. Industries at (800) 543-3458. In our experience, cold weather application does not affect the performance properties of CIM products, but it does require more attention to application procedures to get the best results.