

Technical Tips for Cold Weather Caulking

- ▲ Joints must be clean, dry, and frost free (frost and condensation are more likely as temperatures fall).
- ▲ Dry heat is much better than alcohol or solvents to remove frost and moisture. Alcohol or solvents will evaporate slower at low temperatures, and will attack the sealant if not fully evaporated.
- ▲ Alcohol or solvents should not be added to sealants. They will attack and deteriorate a sealant. Use a cold weather sealant instead.
- ▲ Adding alcohol or solvents to tooling solutions to prevent freezing will damage the sealant's surface, resulting in chalking, cracking, fading, or other surface deterioration. Dry tool, or tool per manufacturer recommendations.
- ▲ Fuel burning heaters or equipment (power trowels, screeds, generators, etc.) may discolor sealants (particularly white). Use vented/indirect heat and check manufacturer recommendations.
- ▲ Joints are opened to their maximum width in cold temperatures. Select a sealant that will accept the extreme joint movement.
- ▲ Cold temperatures are usually accompanied by low humidity, which will slow the cure of typical sealants. Ensure adequate protection for soft or uncured sealant from physical damage.
- ▲ Sealants stored and preconditioned to room temperature will mix, apply, and wet out bond surfaces easier.

The recommended application temperature range for Sikaflex sealants is 40°F to 100°F. Successful application is possible at lower temperatures provided precautions are taken.

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Sikaflex Sealants for Cold Weather Caulking

Sikaflex-15LM

- ▲ Guns below freezing
- ▲ Wets out cold surfaces
- ▲ Low modulus for open joints
- ▲ 1 component polyurethane
- ▲ Cartridges and sausages

Sikaflex-2c NS Winter Grade

- ▲ 2 part non-sag polyurethane
- ▲ Easier to mix, draw, gun, and tool below 40°F
- ▲ Faster chemical cure for cold weather

