

Recommendations For Placing Mortar in Cold Weather

Engineering Services

Technical Bulletin

Minimum Workday Temperature	Construction Requirements	Protection Requirements
Above 40°F	Normal masonry procedures	Cover walls with plastic or canvas at end of workday to prevent water entering masonry
40°F to 32°F	Heat mixing water to produce mortar temperatures between 40°F to 120°F	Cover walls and materials to prevent wetting and freezing. Covers should be plastic or canvas
32°F to 25°F	Heat mixing water and sand to produce mortar temperatures between 40°F and 120°F	With wind velocities over 15 mph provide windbreaks during the workday and cover walls and materials — at the end of the day to prevent wetting and freezing. Maintain masonry above freezing for 16 hours using auxiliary heat or insulated blankets.
25°F to 20°F	Maintain mortar on boards above 40°F	
20°F to 0°F	Heat mixing water and sand to produce mortar temperatures between 40°F to 120°F	Provide enclosures and supply sufficient heat to maintain masonry enclosures above 32°F for 24 hours.

Notes:

- All materials including, masonry units and sand, should be kept covered to prevent wetting and freezing.
- Do Not place mortar on frozen snow covered surfaces.
- If accelerators are used, **Do Not** use calcium chloride of products that contain chlorides.
- In general all mortar should be kept from freezing for 24 hour