

## Potential Winter Construction Challenges

*Precautions are needed on the construction sites to avoid potential challenges associated with cold and sunny winter weather conditions. Neglecting caution during cold and sunny winter weather can contribute to avoidable problems in the EIFS installation. Bond failure, cracking, and other damaging results will happen in winter installations and should be avoided, unless the interior and exterior wall is properly heated and protected from the weather.*

*Understanding the concerns and taking the following precautions in the winter, is usually far less costly and time consuming than coming back in six months to repair the results.*

**Stay on schedule and follow these guidelines.**

- ❑ Review the Air Barrier Winter Weather Bulletin for information on the concerns with air barrier installation in the winter months.
- ❑ Substrates must be clean, dry, and frost free —always wipe surfaces to remove unseen frost. (*each layer*)
- ❑ Review the insulation type being used for the EIFS. XPS insulation might be more problematic in the winter months because of the material impermeability and dry time of adhesive and coatings.
- ❑ Be careful applying warm material on cold surfaces, because a thin layer of condensation will develop on the substrate or in between EIFS coats, which will inhibit proper bond of the material to the substrate. Borderline winter installs will become an issue that could be prevented—talk to the Quality Department.
- ❑ Protect all materials (sealants, peel & stick membrane, liquid membrane, foam, adhesives, base & finish coats, etc.) from freezing. Do not store materials outside or in an unheated truck (on-site or off-site). Most products need to be stored above 50°F.



- ❑ EIFS products, including the air barrier materials will need 40°F and rising until proper cure (contact the manufacturer for temperate and length of time above freezing for proper cure).
- ❑ Temporary heat being used on the interior and exterior of the building shall be INDIRECT heat. (**SEE AECOM TEMPORARY HEAT BULLETIN FOR MORE INFORMATION**)
- ❑ Do not force hot air on the curing material. Always blow away from the wall. Never blow air that is 90°F or more across the surface.
- ❑ Review the elevation that the installation is to be installed. South and west elevations might cause problems due to sun load, which creates bubbles in the air and vapor barrier materials (liquid or peel and stick).
- ❑ Always review manufacturer UV exposure times for all EIFS products. The EPS will have very little UV open time.
- ❑ EIFS is unforgiving—it in doubt, **DO NOT INSTALL.**