



Technical Bulletin

Guide to winter working – Storage and application

Winter brings the usual mix of wet and windy weather alongside low temperature conditions, heavy frosts and the possibility of snow.

To maintain the quality and performance of our products it is important to plan and provide appropriate storage conditions and adequate application protection for all Dryvit products.

In common with all water-based coating systems the Dryvit range of primers, adhesives, base coats and finishes must be stored at temperatures above 5°C and be protected from exposure to winter weather. The individual technical product datasheets provide further information and specific requirements, available at www.dryvit.co.uk.

During the winter months, changeable weather conditions throughout the day often present far from favourable application conditions, particularly on exposed sites. Even when the temperature exceeds 5°C, wet and windy weather can also cause problems. An addition to low temperatures, high relative humidity will also extend the drying and curing times of water based emulsion products. With these changeable weather conditions suitable protection must be provided for base coats, primers and finishes until they are fully cured.

In summary, it is vitally important that the prevailing weather conditions and temperatures are carefully considered, not only during application, but also prior to commencing the work and during the subsequent curing period.

The following is intended as a guideline to winter working when applying Dryvit cementitious and water-based products.

- Store materials between 15 to 20°C this will facilitate good application of the products even in low external temperatures. It will also aid the speed of drying and initial curing of the products.
- Ensure the temperature of mixing water is not less than 15°C.
- Do not use any Dryvit products from buckets when they have been stored or exposed to frosty or freezing conditions. Whilst the product may appear normal, freezing cycles can cause the emulsion to “split”, leading to possible surface defects once the product is applied.
- Finishes or base coats must not be applied during inclement weather without the provision of appropriate protection, minimum application temperatures must also be observed. Protection should be provided until these products are completely dry. Failure to follow the product guidance provided can lead to colour variation or debonding of the finish.
- Base coats must be fully dry before the application of any finish.

- Efflorescence (white surface deposits) forms more readily on the surface of base coats when drying times are extended at low temperature and at higher humidity. Any efflorescence must be removed prior to applying primers or finishes.
- Finishes are water-based and require excess water to evaporation as part of the drying process. Low temperatures and high humidity will result in extended drying times.

The considerations are not exhaustive and are provided as a guideline to good winter application and storage practice. If specific advice is required contact Dryvit UK Ltd for further information or guidance.