

Considerations for Applying Roof Coatings in Cold Weather

By Evelyn Witterholt, RCS Reporter.

Application techniques and recommendations for coating a roof in colder temperatures.

Applying a roof coating during the winter can be difficult as there are so many factors to consider. If you're not wearing the right equipment to face the elements or if your coating is frozen due to improper planning, you're in for a difficult time. In this tech tip report, [General Coatings](#) outlines everything you need to know when it comes to cold weather roof coating application.

The report defines cold weather that affects roof coatings as anything below 55°F. It provides general information, such as what kind of personal protection equipment you'll need for applying roof coatings when it's cold. Disposable coveralls, fabric gloves fully coated with butyl, PVC, or neoprene and chemical safety goggles, to name a few, are all necessary.

Recommendations for storing materials are also provided in the report. If a coating is not stored properly on a jobsite, it can freeze, rendering it unusable even if it's heated back up. Although there are different types of coatings, like acrylic, silicone and polyurethane, they all react similarly in colder conditions.

There are tips for how to properly pump and spray coatings when it's cold. Necessary accommodations must be made for equipment because the viscosity of the materials increases in the cold, which leads to a loss in pressure and spray pattern. The report outlines how to supply pumps with materials and how much pressure a pump needs to work correctly.

Applying a coating in the cold has the potential for it to cure poorly. The report suggests that applying the material in thinner layers can help it cure faster. There are even specifications given for acrylic coatings, as these have the potential to get cracked or washed off.

Despite the risks of applying roof coatings in the cold, there are plenty of options and accommodations at your disposal. Your project doesn't have to face potential setbacks, so long as you know how to handle your materials and how to apply them.

[Read the full report from General Coatings here.](#)

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