

COLD WEATHER TIPS

For some of you, Winter temperatures have already visited your area despite the fact it's still Fall. Others are enjoying continued mild temperatures, but know that a chill might not be too far away. Are you prepared to deal with seasonal temperature changes?

KEEP YOUR FORM RELEASE SPRAY TANK WORKING

You may experience trouble spraying your form release, even if you are using a product designed to meet the temperature extremes encountered in your area. If moisture from condensation or other contaminants gets into your spray tank it may cause your spray system to fail. Don't get caught with concrete on the road and a sprayer that won't spray.

Take these steps to reduce the chance:

1. Keep dirt, snow, and ice from falling into the tank when filling it.
2. In late Fall, pour a can of HEET® or other non-combustible water remover in your tank to clear out any condensation that may have accumulated during the warmer months.
3. Compressed air can contain a significant amount of moisture! Use an air dryer with your compressor to avoid introducing water into your sprayer.
4. Periodically drain your compressed air tank in your shop or on your truck (refer to your owners manual for instructions).

AVOID CONCRETE "PULL-OFF" BY CHECKING BEFORE YOU STRIP

When temperatures drop, concrete cure times go up. If you are concerned that your concrete wall is not ready to strip, start by removing just one outside corner. If your form releases from the wall cleanly with no concrete sticking to the form you can proceed to remove hardware and strip forms. If concrete adheres to the form in heavy patches you should allow more curing time.

Do not remove hardware if your wall is not ready to strip. Removing hardware allows form to "pop", effectively releasing the form from the wall. "Pull-off" will occur at this time. Also, leaving the forms in place with hardware removed will allow condensation to develop between the concrete wall and the face of the form, which will quickly freeze, making form removal difficult.

KNOW YOUR LOCAL BUILDING CODES

Many local building codes require special measures to be taken for cold-weather concreting. These can include leaving forms in place for a specified period of time, use of curing blankets, "tenting" and heating, and other precautions.

For more tips, tricks, and ways to protect your investment during the cold weather months, contact Jonathan Pizey at Western Forms with a toll-free call to 800-821-3870.

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