

## COLD WEATHER

### MIXING/POURING SUGGESTIONS FOR BACKING

Copps' epoxy backing products do not contain any VOC's or BGE\*, but prolonged exposure to sub 50 °F temperatures may affect the ease and quality of your pour. Furthermore, if backing has been stored over periods of temperature extremes, i.e., hot summer months, cold winter months, its consistency may be further affected. Prolonged exposure to 85+°F temperatures accelerates the settling of filler because the liquid portion (epoxy) loses viscosity as temperatures increase. With aging, filler re-agglomeration is possible. The colder the storage temperature or the longer the exposure to cold conditions, the more likely your backing may be affected. Cold material and/or prolonged exposure to cold conditions will result in two major consequences:

- 1) Backing resin will be "stiff" and difficult to mix thoroughly (as filler agglomerates) with the hardener, and very slow pouring.
- 2) Backing, even when thoroughly mixed, will not set up or cure at the normal or "typical" rate, increasing down time.

Ideally, backing should be stored at 60-75 °F, for at least 24-48 hours before your pour, longer if backing is "old" or prolonged cold storage is suspected. Backing may be "warmed" up by placing unopened pails in a hot water bath or near a radiant heat source. Avoid torching plastic pails – the pail may melt and/or the hardener (inside in the "little" can) may boil! If it is not possible to warm backing to room temperature 24-48 hours prior to your pour, a combination of warming techniques and pre-mixing procedures are suggested. Settled or agglomerated backing resin must be pre-mixed with a sufficiently powerful drill to a homogeneous consistency prior to hardener addition. A longer mixing time for cold backing is suggested to reduce viscosity and improve "pourability." Be sure not to over mix to the point where the pail feels warm to the touch or excessive entrained air is evident.

Ideally backing should be used within 18 months of its date of manufacture. Backing that is older than 18 months, or has been stored at various temperature extremes, may usually be successfully poured if adequate "pre-pour," reconstituting techniques are utilized.

**DO NOT ADD "EXTRA" HARDENER – IT WILL NOT SPEED UP THE CURE – AND IT WILL REDUCE THE STRENGTH OF YOUR BACKING!**

\*\*Butyl Glycidyl Ether. The EPA (SARA Title III, section 312) lists BGE as "Toxic" (per ANSI Z129.1) by skin absorption and an immediate health hazard.

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