

Issue Date: September 27th, 2013
Issued By: FiberTite Technical Services
Re: FTR Cold Weather Precautions
Waterborne Adhesives: FTR 390 and FTR 490

FTR Adhesives - Cold Weather Precautions

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In the Northern climates of the US, October ushers in warnings that are expressed through the changing of the leaves and the spectacular panorama of fall color, that the cold winter weather is just around the corner.

It is this year's pending cold weather conditions that are the impetus for this bulletin.

All too often and for any number of reasons, roofing projects get delayed, pushed and extended from an original schedule for warm weather application into the fall and winter months. These scenarios require us to modify the construction plan and materials where waterborne adhesives were the original choice. Unfortunately, the water content of these adhesive make them prone to damage from freezing temperatures, before and after application.

On October 1st, [Seaman Corporation](#) moved our FTR 390 and FTR 490 adhesives out of the master warehouse in Ohio for winter storage in the south. [We will also discontinue shipping these waterborne products to or within northern climates until April.](#)

For those contractors that already have these waterborne products on site or find themselves caught between seasons, please pay particular attention to the following recommendation and precautions:

- Review your current project schedules and keep an eye on the long range forecast.
- Communicate the possibility of inclement or adverse conditions to the specifier / owner.
- It is recommended that the project adhesives be changed to either FTR 190e, FTR 290, FTR CR20 or hot asphalt.
- If switching adhesive is not an option; FTR 390 & FTR 490 must be stored inside or in heated containers (65°) to prevent freezing.

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- Application of waterborne adhesive is restricted to daily temperatures that are 40°F and rising.
- Daytime and evening temperatures must remain above freezing for a minimum of 72 hrs after application.
- Solvent borne membrane adhesives (FTR 190e, FTR 290) and FTR CR20 also require heated storage during winter weather conditions and adherence to the 40°F and rising limitation.
- It is also prudent to limit the use of solvent borne adhesives to conditions that will foster temperatures above freezing for at least 8-hrs after application. Keep adhesive in heated storage at a nominal 65°F 24-hrs prior to use.
- Bring only enough adhesive out of heated storage to support that day's production. This will greatly improve general application and usage rates.
- Low rise polyurethane insulation adhesives (FTR 601 & CR-20) also require heated storage at a nominal 65°F prior to use, and they are also restricted to temperatures of 40° F and rising.

The following are some additional cold weather construction considerations:

- Hot asphalt has become a popular choice for bonding insulation, coverboards and fleece back membranes during cold weather roofing.
- Proper heating and insulated transport from the kettle to the point of application is critical to quality and consistency.
- Gypsum based coverboards are prone to moisture absorption if not properly stored during construction. Cold and damp conditions combined with improper storage can bring about some undesirable consequences when these products are subjected to hot asphalt.
- The coverboard manufacturers recommend:
 - o Remove the plastic packaging immediately upon receipt of delivery.
 - o Failure to remove the plastic packaging may result in entrapment of condensation or moisture.
 - o Coverboards stored outside must be stored level and off the ground and protected by a breathable waterproof covering.
 - o Provide means for air circulation around and under stored bundles of coverboard.

If you have any questions, or require assistance in dealing with or explaining your particular weather dilemma to the customer, please do not hesitate to contact [FiberTite Technical Services](#).

