

# APPLICATION CONDITIONS FOR EXTERIOR LATEX PAINTS

Application conditions with exterior painting can impact the overall appearance and performance of an exterior paint job. The quality, continuity and uniformity of the film formed will be determined by temperature and drying conditions.

**A. Application and drying temperature:** If the temperature is too low, film-formation may not be optimum, resulting in compromise of film adhesion, toughness and longevity, and in some cases appearance including sub-standard gloss, color and presence of cracks.

- Paints should be applied at an air temperature no lower than the minimum application temperature recommended by the paint manufacturer, typically 50°F (10°C)
- The paint should not be applied unless the surface being painted is at least up to the minimum application temperature for the paint product
- The paint should be applied only if the air temperature is predicted to remain at least as high as the recommended minimum paint application temperature for the following 24 hours

**B. Speed of dry:** If a latex paint is forced to dry very quickly, it can be dry before film formation is complete, compromising long-term durability. When applying an exterior paint, avoid having more than two or three of these conditions simultaneously, which accelerate drying time:

- Painting under very hot conditions: >95°F (35°C)
- Painting in direct, bright sunshine, especially if the paint is of dark color
- The surface being painted is hot
- The surface being painted is very porous
- Conditions are breezy or windy
- The humidity is very low (<20% relative humidity)

**C. Humidity and moisture:** Presence of excess moisture in the air can cause freshly applied paint to sag and run, as well as dry slowly.

- Do not apply paint if the air temperature is less than 5°F (3°C) higher than the dew point; this is a better guideline than relying on relative humidity figures
- Do not apply paint if there is evidence that moisture is forming on the surface to be painted or on nearby surfaces
- Do not paint if the humidity is very high (>90%) and the temperature is predicted to drop