



Winter Working



Introduction

Winter often brings additional challenges to the construction industry and particularly for those trying to complete outdoor tasks such as insulation and finishing external walls. Thankfully, due to some innovative technology and forward thinking, the K Systems team have been able to engineer many of their products to allow continued use in the autumn and winter months meaning you don't have to stop working when the weather changes!

We know the main problems during the Autumn and Winter can lead to wash-off of finishing products, wetter substrates, slower drying and sometimes limebloom.

Most of our products are designed to work down to temperatures of 5°C and our Mineral TC can be used at temperatures as low as 1°C. This means you can continue to work on those colder days. Our products are also designed to dry quickly, meaning that when you have a window of drier weather, you can get to work and be assured that your K Systems products will dry before the rain starts. There are additional tips and tools to use that can fast track that process even further without compromising the highest quality and performance you expect from K Systems and their products.

This handy Winter Working brochure is here to help, outlining the weather conditions when you can continue to use K Systems products, the products within our extensive, specialised range which

are perfect to keep you working through the winter months, some best practice top tips to help you in the colder, wetter conditions and introducing you to some of our Winter Working specialists and how they can help you.

As ever, our teams are here to help and support you with technical support, sales support, marketing support, handy tips. Stay in touch via phone or on our social media channels and we'll work through the Winter months together – without any slips, trips or rendering disasters.



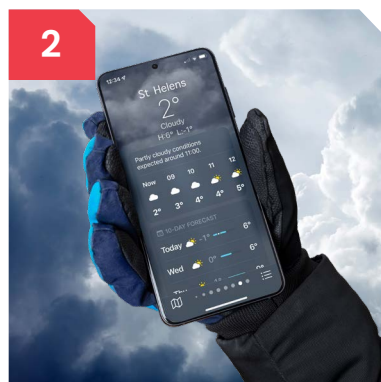
Top 5 tips

These are our top 5 tips for working outdoors with K Systems products throughout the winter months.



1 Plan ahead

Working in Winter months can be challenging. Make sure you plan ahead to ensure you have the right equipment, supplies and clothing.



2 Check the weather forecast

We recommend between the months of mid-November and early April that it is worthwhile to check the weather daily, so you are prepared in advance of starting external render jobs. Also, as rainfall is more frequent there is an increased risk of thin-coat wash-off or limebloom, particularly on deeper colours of bagged render.



3 Be aware of the temperature

K Systems cementitious and synthetic products have a working temperature of 5°C to 35°C. It is very important that render products are not applied onto frozen surfaces and that surfaces are always protected from rain or frost for a minimum of 48hrs after application, whilst the render is curing. Drying times may be prolonged in Winter months due to the colder conditions.



4 Keep substrate dry

This is a key thing to remember as a wet substrate can prove problematic with adhesion and bonding due to a lack of suction, weakness and reduced bond for the render. Even surfaces which have become saturated and are only dry on the surface can lead to potential problems such as limebloom.



5 Choose the right products

Make sure you have the best products on site before you begin. Our 2 best products for Winter Working are:

Accelerator – Ideal for use in low temperature conditions with K Systems base coats, dashing renders and mineral thin coat renders.

TC-Additive – Reduce the drying time of K Systems synthetic resin based thin coat renders under low temperature conditions.

Hear From The Winter Specialists



Jason Gledhill
National Application Specialist

What is the toughest part of Winter Working?
The pressure from contractors to ensure projects are delivered on time regardless of the weather, and keeping operatives motivated during the Winter months when working outside.

What is your top tip for Winter Working?
Do not deviate from the specification regardless of pressure to deliver the project on time, as weather damaged render will require repairing and cause further delays/disruption and cost implications.

How can you help?
We offer site support to ensure the best possible outcome for the contractor to continue with application.



Gerry McErlean
Applications Specialist

What is the toughest part of Winter Working?
Enough planning to have your products ready but making sure they are stored in dry conditions, off the ground until you are ready to use them.

What is your top tip for Winter Working?
Pre-plan and keep the substrates reasonably dry. This helps avoid variations in colour and scrape when using scraped texture products.

How can you help?
We have a range of technical documents and specifications which cover Winter Working conditions. The team and I are happy to discuss these and provide technical help and support as needed.



Kevin Gamble
Technical Services Manager

What is the toughest part of Winter Working?
The unpredictability of the weather.

What is your top tip for Winter Working?
Plan-ahead by checking the weather forecast and temperature etc before starting, ensure that the substrate/base coat is dry, and protect the newly applied product as far as possible.

How can you help?
K Systems have excellent Technical Datasheets available, together with an experienced Technical Team who can deliver advice on products, specification and general good practice.



Gavin Creech
Product Manager

What is the toughest part of Winter Working?
Apart from keeping the hands warm, it can be hard to keep projects on schedule when weather changes, so having adaptable work plans can really help.

What is your top tip for Winter Working?
Watch the weather forecasts and plan your options so you can change your work programme and continue making progress on your project, no matter what the winter weather brings us.

How can you help?
Our teams are here to provide the information and support to keep your projects progressing, so get in touch if you want to double check best practice in using our products or systems so you are making the best decisions in advance of the changing weather.



Products



Accelerator

This liquid additive is ideal for use in low temperature conditions to accelerate the curing process of cement-based renders. Added to the render mix itself, Accelerator can help with early rainproofing when used with mineral thin coat renders.



Silicone Thin Coat Range

A ready to use organic resin render which is applied by hand or machine to provide a low maintenance textured finish, also suitable for external wall insulation and approved render carrier board systems. There are 4 finishing products within the Thin Coat range offering a variety of textures and appearance. The Thin Coat range is perfect for use with K Systems TC-Additive.



Silicone Dash Receiver

Silicone Dash Receiver can be hand or machine applied and incorporates silicone technology. Silicone Dash Receiver is normally applied over K Systems Base Coats as a background surface for dry dash or roughcast finishes. Silicone Dash Receiver is available in 20 standard colours.



Mineral Thin Coat Render

Mineral TC is a cement based, polymer modified render, requiring only the addition of water and 10 minutes mixing time. It will provide an attractive, low maintenance finish. Mineral TC can be used at lower temperatures making it ideal for winter working and additionally is perfect for use with K Systems Accelerator.



TC-Additive

TC-Additive is a solvent-free additive used to reduce the drying time of synthetic resin renders such as our Silicone Thin Coat Range. It accelerates the curing time enabling faster completion of jobs and allowing users to apply render all year-round. TC-Additive is ideal for use at lower temperatures.



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