BUILDER BULLETIN #2026-04

(November 9, 2026)

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO BUILDERS

SNOW AND ICE AT CONSTRUCTION SITES

To ensure the safety of our staff, it is imperative that any access points to enter buildings under construction requiring inspections are free and clear of snow and/or ice and properly salted.

COLD WEATHER CONSTRUCTION

The regulations of the Ontario Building Code governing cold weather construction are attached for your use. Please ensure this information is forwarded to your site offices and complied with.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
COLD WEATHER CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS

In accordance with the Ontario Building Code, the following must be adhered to during cold weather construction:

Div. B Article 7.3.5.3. Where piping may be exposed to freezing conditions, it shall be protected from the effects of freezing.

Div. B Article 7.3.5.4. Plumbing, piping and equipment exposed to mechanical damage shall be protected.

Div. B Article 9.3.1.9. (1) When the air temperature is below 5°C (41°F), concrete shall be,

(a) kept at a temperature of not less than 10°C (50°F) or more than 25°C (77°F) while being mixed and placed, and

(b) maintained at a temperature of not less than 10°C (50°F) for 72 hours after placing.

(2) No frozen material or ice shall be used in concrete described in Sentence (1).

Div. B Article 9.8.10.3. Suitable precautions shall be taken during backfilling and grading operations to ensure that subsequent freezing of the soil will not cause uplift forces on the underside of cantilevered concrete steps to the extent that the steps or the walls to which they are attached will be damaged.

Div. B Article 9.10.20.5. Equipment forming part of a fire protection system that may be adversely affected by freezing temperatures and that is located in an unheated area shall be protected from freezing.

Div. B Article 9.12.1.3. The bottom of excavations shall be kept from freezing throughout the entire construction period.

Div. B Article 9.20.14.1. (1) Mortar and masonry shall be maintained at a temperature not below 5°C (41°F) during installation and not for less than 48 hours after installation.

(2) No frozen material shall be used in the mortar mix.

Div. B Article 9.20.14.2. The top surface of uncompleted masonry exposed to the weather shall be completely covered with a waterproofing material when construction is not in progress.

Div. B Article 9.28.6.1. (1) The base for stucco shall be maintained above freezing.

(2) Stucco shall be maintained at a temperature of not less than 10°C (50°F) during application and for not less than 48 hours afterwards.

Div. B Article 9.29.5.10. In cold weather, heat shall be provided to maintain a temperature of not below 10°C (50°F) for 48 hours prior to taping and finishing and maintained for not less than 48 hours thereafter.