

Bricks with initial rates of absorption above 20 grams per minute should be sprinkled with warm water just before laying. The brick must not be saturated since they may disintegrate on freezing.

Masonry Protection

After the masonry walls are laid up, they should be kept at a temperature above freezing for at least 48 hours. Tarpaulins are usually sufficient for this purpose for temperatures down to 25°F. At lower temperatures artificial heat inside temporary enclosures is required. Care must be taken to prevent heating of one side of a wall only.

PLASTER

Fresh plaster must not be allowed to freeze since this will result in damp, dark-coloured walls with inadequate strength. During the first twenty-four hours the plaster should be kept warm and moist. After plaster has hydrated, which will be within the 24 hours, ventilation must be provided to permit drying of the plaster. High humidity conditions, particularly at temperatures of 40°F. to 50°F., may prevent drying of the plaster; this greatly weakens the bond of the plaster to the base. If outside temperatures are below 40°F., heat must be introduced to supplement ventilation. The temperature should be controlled, however, to prevent too rapid drying of the plaster which often results in the formation of shrinkage cracks. A temperature of 65°F. could be considered a desirable maximum level. Ventilation should be so arranged that air currents do not impinge on a freshly plastered surface. In very cold weather air for ventilation should be introduced at some point away from the area to be dried.

Since in most cases the permanent heating system is in operation when the plastering is started, no trouble is found in maintaining proper temperatures. Warm air heating systems also permit the introduction of fresh air directly to the furnace. When temporary