

PAINTING AND DECORATING

Do not apply exterior paint at temperatures below 50°F. Paint applied in cold weather will not dry properly and will lose its durability and resistance to weathering. For winter work it is best to pre-prime outside trim and millwork in a heated and ventilated building and finish the painting in warm weather.

Control of temperature for interior painting presents no problem if the heating system is operating. Ventilation is desirable not only to assist in the drying of the paint, but also to remove the solvents which are sometimes toxic.

Fresh plaster should not be painted. This retards the drying of the plaster and may result in fading of the pigments in the paint. Taping of joints in dry wall construction should not be done at temperatures below 50°F.

Wallpaper should not be applied at low temperatures. If heat is not provided freezing and souring of paste can readily occur. If the paste sours it will spoil the paper. Wet conditions inside the house or papering over fresh plaster will also cause paste souring. A tablespoon of carbolic acid to a bucket of paste reportedly will keep paste good for three or four days. If paper will not dry in this time, increase the heat in the building or use a dehumidifier.

PROTECTION OF WINTER WORK

Winter in most of Canada is severe and the majority of building operations can carry on only when protection in the form of insulation or shelters is provided. In house building many builders find that the use of insulated forms to protect concrete foundations and steam to prevent the entry of frost into the ground is all the protection that is required. As soon as the foundation is in place, the wood frame and exterior cladding can be put in place in all but the most severe weather. Quality of such work is often better in winter since the frame is not subjected to