



Bulletin: Cold Weather Requirements for Placement of Concrete

Purpose

To prevent the freezing of concrete.

Implementation

BC Building Code 2018 Edition Section 9.3.1.9

(1) When the air temperature is below **5 degrees Celsius**, concrete shall be kept at a temperature of not less than **10 degrees Celsius** or more than **25 degrees Celsius** while being mixed and placed, and maintained at a temperature of **not less than 10 degrees Celsius for 72 hours after placing**.

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

Therefore, when the air temperature is below 5 degrees Celsius, provision must be made to protect the concrete from freezing. This can be achieved by covering the concrete with insulation blankets or straw. If the concrete temperature cannot be maintained at 10 degrees Celsius for 72 hours after placement a heat source must be applied.

If on the day of inspection, the above paragraphs apply, insulated blankets must be on the site prior to the footings inspection. No inspection will be done if this requirement has not been met.

Failure to maintain the minimum temperature/curing time will result with the Building Department requiring a structural analysis of the concrete to determine if the compressive strength of the concrete has been achieved.

***Verification may be required by the Building Inspector prior to starting the building framing.**

Please note: Building Bulletins are prepared to provide convenient information for clients and should not be considered a replacement for reviewing the bylaw or associated legal documents. If there is any contradiction between this guide and relevant municipal bylaws and/or applicable codes, please refer to the bylaws and/or codes for legal authority.

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