



Subject: Drying Conditions for Ameristone™ and TerraNeo®

This bulletin is intended to remind you of the importance of ensuring a full cure for Ameristone and TerraNeo. These products are applied relatively thick and are required to dry clear to reveal the colored ingredients. Because of this, the drying and curing process takes place at a slower rate than with other Dryvit finishes. If these finishes are not allowed a full cure, adverse effects such as blistering, wash-off, erosion and permanent whitening can occur.

Dryvit product specifications for Ameristone and TerraNeo require the following ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS for application:

1. Application shall not take place during inclement weather unless appropriate protection is provided.
2. At the time of application, the air and wall surface temperature shall be a minimum of 10 °C (50 °F) and shall remain so for a minimum of 48 hours.

These are the minimum conditions to resist wash-off from rainfall and damage from freezing and to assure long-term performance.

High relative humidity will prolong the time required for a full cure no matter what the temperature is. The formation of dew at night will completely inhibit the drying and may cause a temporary milky appearance to the Ameristone or TerraNeo finishes. This milky appearance should disappear once the dew evaporates by day and the curing process resumes. Therefore, make sure the weather forecast is for rain-free and frost-free weather for several days subsequent to application of Ameristone or TerraNeo, especially if application temperatures are near the minimum, to ensure a full cure for these finishes.

Hand-held infrared surface temperature thermometers are strongly recommended to check the surface temperatures when application is done in the shade. Shaded elevations may have surface temperatures significantly below the air temperature. Two sources of infrared thermometers are Brighton Electronics at 1-866-837-8371 or www.Brighton-electronics.com and Professional Equipment at 1-800-334-9291 or www.professionalequipment.com.

Whenever possible, store these finishes at or above 21 °C (70 °F) but not higher than 38 °C (100 °F) prior to application. This will facilitate the drying and curing of the finish.

Dryvit Field Service personnel can provide recommendations on installation of protective enclosures for cold weather application. Extreme care should be employed when using protective enclosures and heating during application of Ameristone or TerraNeo. These finishes are very sensitive to low temperatures and moisture at any point before they are fully cured. It is important to keep the enclosure with heat and ventilation in place for at least 48 hours after application of Ameristone or TerraNeo. **The minimum air and wall surface temperature of 10 °C (50 °F) must be maintained around the clock during this time.** Adequate ventilation and fans for air movement are required in these enclosures to facilitate drying. Test the finish for dryness with a firm thumb twist. A dry finish resists deformation from the thumb twist down to the base coat. The best way to tell if a finish is totally dry is to use a moisture meter. The meter

reads zero when the probe is inserted into a dry finish. The Delmhorst Moisture Meter model #BD-2100 is recommended. Contact Delmhorst at 1-877-335-6467 or www.Delmhorst.com. Do not remove the enclosure until the finish is completely dry.

Panel plant application of Ameristone or TerraNeo during the cold months requires certain precautions as well. Just as in tenting and heating situations, the panel plant environment must be conducive to the proper cure of the finishes. Maintain air and panel temperatures of 10 °C (50 °F) or higher at all times with fans to facilitate adequate air movement. Dehumidifiers are strongly recommended. A Delmhorst Moisture Meter is a necessary tool in panel plant production. Use the meter at every step in the application process, from substrate through to finish, ensuring that there is zero moisture before proceeding. Panels with finish need to be stored in a vertical orientation with adequate spacing for air circulation until the finish is fully cured. In wrapping panels for shipping, wrap with a breathable membrane such as Tyvek or brown paper to prevent condensation rather than in plastic or any vapor barrier material.

If you have any questions regarding this document, please contact Dryvit at 800-556-7752, ext. 9.

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