HOT VS. COLD:

Which fluid applied waterproofing technology is best for your project?

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Today's hot and cold fluid applied waterproofing systems both deliver proven, high-performance waterproofing. Designed to form a seamless, monolithic fully bonded membrane, both waterproofing systems have their pros and cons, depending on the project. Here are some key considerations to help you choose the optimal fluid applied system for your next project.

Safety and Permits

Hot fluid applied waterproofing systems require hot kettles or melters to bring the hot rubberized asphalt up to the proper installation temperature, which often exceeds 350 °F (177 °C). Beyond the obvious risks to installers, the use of kettles or melters will often require municipal permits and/or the presence of a fire marshal on site, driving project costs up and increasing project complexity. Cold fluid applied systems eliminate these issues, as they cure by chemical reaction or when exposed to moisture.

Jobsite accessibility

Is your jobsite at ground level, or is it elevated? If it's on the ground, the difference between getting the required equipment and materials on-site will be minimal. If the jobsite is a plaza deck or a rooftop, then going with a hot fluid applied system will be much more costly and time-consuming, since you'll need cranes or lifts to get the kettles or melters up to the application site. In contrast, most cold fluid applied systems come in 5-gallon pails, making them easy to transport via service elevators, as well as requiring no specialized equipment on the jobsite.

Installation efficiency

When there's a need for installation speed, cold fluid applied technologies have two advantages vs. hot fluid applied systems. First, many cold fluid membranes can be spray-applied, so crews can install far more square feet per shift than hot rubberized asphalt. Also, most cold fluid technologies have very fast cure times – some are instant-setting, and many can withstand foot traffic an hour after installation, allowing other trades to get to work more quickly.

Jobsite temperatures

Noting the application temperature for your project can help you choose between a cold fluid applied waterproofing system and a hot rubberized asphalt system. Most cold fluid applied waterproofing technologies can be applied at temperature as low as 20 ºF (-7 °C). Hot rubberized asphalt systems typically have a lower minimum application temperature, offering a distinct wintertime advantage in extreme cold climates. However, substrates must be free of frost, snow, or ice prior to installation.

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Need more in-depth waterproofing advice?

Consider consulting with a trusted resource at Henry Company. Henry offers a complete portfolio of waterproofing system solutions to meet virtually any above or below grade waterproofing project need. Backed by 50 years of waterproofing expertise, Henry waterproofing solutions include systems for foundations, plaza decks, green roofs, traffic coatings and more.

Schedule a meeting with a Henry Trusted Advisor.

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