



# SOLUTIONS

## HOW DOES FLORIDA'S CLIMATE AFFECT PAINTING?

The subtropical climate of Florida can pose serious difficulties in the drying and curing process of latex paints, particularly when painting outside. Because our temperature and humidity levels vary so drastically during our extreme seasons, it is important to take a few precautions to help ensure a successful quality paint job.

During our summer months, primarily June through September, surface temperatures can exceed 120°F. Painting on surfaces this hot will retard a latex paint's ability to adhere to the surface and perform over time. The following precautions should be taken when painting in the summer months:

1. Avoid direct sunlight during peak hours when applying latex paints, especially semi-gloss or gloss sheens. Painting in cooler, shaded areas as the day progresses will help latex paints and primers penetrate the surface better, and perform normally.
2. Use a mild bleach solution (10% bleach) on all surfaces prior to painting. The humidity of the summer months stimulates the growth of mildew. Mildew spores are not visible to the naked eye, and can cause appearance and adhesion problems later on. (See Scott Solutions Sheet "Preventing Mildew and Algae" for more detail.)

During our cooler months, primarily December through March, surface temperatures often drop below 50°F. Surfaces should never be painted when their temperatures fall below this level. Keep in mind that this is the temperature of the surface itself. The air temperature may be above 50°F, but the surface temperature can, especially in the morning, be considerably cooler. The following precautions should be taken when painting in the winter months:

1. Ensure that the temperature of the painting surface is higher than 50°F prior to painting. Remember that even though the air temperature may be above 50°F, the surface itself may be too cool to paint.
2. Surfaces will be affected by the fog and moisture that is always around during the nighttime hours, especially near the shore. **Surfaces to painted should always be completely dry.**
3. Avoid painting after 3:00 p.m., especially when the evening's temperature is predicted to drop below 50°F.
4. Avoid scratching or nicking newly applied latex paint that is less than two weeks old. Cooler air temperatures can significantly slow the curing process. Darker toned colors may take even longer.

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