



Building Services
808 West Spokane Falls Blvd
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BUILD-15
**Concrete: Cold-
Weather Placement
and Curing**

General Requirements:

The International Building Code (IBC) requires that concrete be maintained at a temperature above 50⁰F for a period of seven days after placement. If high-early strength concrete is used, the period is reduced to three days. Calcium chloride is not acceptable as an admixture in concrete that is in direct contact with earth or exposed to weather.

Adequate heating equipment is required to ensure that the above-noted temperatures are maintained. Forms, rebar, and ground surfaces shall be free from frost. The contractor shall bear the responsibility for maintaining the curing temperatures specified when ambient temperatures are predicted to range below 40⁰ F for a period of three days from date of concrete placement.

Alternative Prescriptive Method:

Footings for one- and two-family dwellings may be placed under the following conditions:

1. The outside temperature at the time of pour is not less than 25⁰ F.
2. The excavation, forming, and pouring are done on the same day.
3. The pour is immediately covered with visqueen, then straw or insulation batts with at least a six-inch depth.
4. Heated high-early strength concrete is used.

Foundation walls for one- and two-family dwellings may be poured under the following conditions:

1. The outside temperature at the time of pour is not less than 25⁰ F.
2. The wall forms are kept in place and completely covered with insulation blankets.
3. Heated high-early strength concrete is used.

To ensure that adequate concrete strength is achieved, the concrete poured under the Alternative Prescriptive Method may be subject to a rebound-hammer test when the building inspector's notes indicate that the concrete was not protected in an acceptable manner.