

THE IPCO FLASH



IPCO FACT:

...mortar accelerators are sometimes erroneously referred to as "antifreeze". Set accelerators react chemically with portland cement to hasten initial set of the mortar—not to keep the mortar from freezing.

IN OUR LAST ISSUE...

We discussed the new BIA tech note release as it pertains to through-wall flashing. If you missed our last issue, and would like a copy sent, emailed or faxed to you, please give us a call at 800-383-8183 or email us at holton_ipco@ameritech.net.

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Mortar accelerators have long been used in masonry to address the concerns of working in cold weather. Many design professionals specify mortar accelerators with nothing more than a reference to the approval of their use and the standards to be followed. When it comes to mortar accelerators, it is important to know the difference between old-fashioned liquid accelerators and the new and improved powder accelerators.

Liquids vs. Powders

Liquid accelerators have been the basis for accelerating the set of mortar for many years. Almost 10 years ago, Illinois Products developed the concept of a non-chloride powder set accelerator which addressed many of the concerns related to liquid accelerators. Even with the introduction of a non-chloride powder into the industry, many masons continue to use messy and inexact liquid accelerators even though there is a better alternative on the market. One of the primary issues with liquids is the inconsistent mixing practices that naturally occur with liquid products. Additionally, the drums used to store the liquids promote spillage and can be leaky, are more difficult to transport and take up more

POWDERS: THE NEW AGE OF MORTAR SET ACCELERATORS



storage space on the job site.

Powders, on the other hand, provide for exact proportioned batches of mortar each and every time because they are provided in premeasured bags, making them the easiest and most exact method of mixing. In addition, powders are much easier to handle and take up a fraction of the space of liquids. There are no drums to dispose of and none of the concerns of liquid products that must be stored on the job site.

Dump the drums

Specifiers should not only require the use of powder accelerators, but be cautious to specify a non-chloride powder, such as Illinois Products Hard-N-Fast chloride-free set accelerator powder. Hard-N-Fast Powder takes the

guess-work out of mixing accelerators on your projects and eliminates the problems associated to liquid accelerators.

It's In the Mix

One of the reasons powders are so much more effective is that they are added directly to the mixing water and completely dissolved before adding the cement and sand. This allows the approximately 14 ounces of powder accelerator to be evenly distributed with the hundreds of pounds of cement and sand.

Mortar set accelerators can keep your projects running smoothly in cold-weather construction—make sure your masons are providing your projects with all the advantages powder accelerators offer.

*Linda M. Holton, Sales Representative
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Need an updated Product Catalog? Give us a call!

POWDER **HARD-N-FAST**

TM

A CHLORIDE-FREE SET-ACCELERATING ADMIXTURE FOR MASONRY MORTAR

What is HARD-N-FAST?

HARD-N-FAST is a powdered chloride-free, set accelerating admixture for mortar. It is a pre-measured, white, dry powder proportioned for each mortar batch. Each portion is packaged in a polyethylene bag with printed instructions.

Is HARD-N-FAST an anti-freeze?

No. HARD-N-FAST will not appreciably lower the freezing point of mortar or water. HARD-N-FAST will raise the temperature of the mixing water slightly as it readily dissolves and then HARD-N-FAST will act as a catalyst in the reaction between portland cement (or masonry cement) and water.

What does HARD-N-FAST do for mortar in cold or freezing weather?

HARD-N-FAST speeds the chemical reaction between portland cement and water. This causes the mortar to set faster and increases the early strength development. This faster set and its accompanying heat generation help provide protection against frost damage in freezing weather. The result is that masons proceed in a normal manner in cold weather with less concern about frozen mortar. With no delays, production rises.

Is HARD-N-FAST used in above-freezing temperatures?

Yes. In all weather, HARD-N-FAST helps anchor "floaters", ("Floaters" is one of the terms used

by brick layers to designate a dense, non absorptive unit that will "swim" or "float" on a mortar bed unless the mortar starts to stiffen early.) Without HARD-N-FAST in the mortar, "floaters", glass block, stone and low absorptive brick can be a problem in fall and spring as well as winter.

Are the physical properties of HARD-N-FAST mortars known?

Yes. An independent laboratory report shows that at 40° F HARD-N-FAST mortar reaches both initial and final set in one-half the time of standard mortar. In additional compressive strength tests at 3, 7, and 28 days, HARD-N-FAST mortars were more than 50% stronger. The report is available on request.

Are there limitations?

HARD-N-FAST does not eliminate the need for common sense, good construction practices, and special winter precautions. The use of HARD-N-FAST will not alleviate problems caused by poor workmanship, inadequate architectural details, careless specifications or inferior materials.

How is HARD-N-FAST mixed?

The pre-measured contents of the plastic bags of HARD-N-FAST are introduced into the mixing drum just after the initial mixing water, but prior to the portland cement and/or masonry cement and sand.



SUGGESTED PROPORTIONS:

Cold Weather between 32° and 15° F

For portland cement-lime mortars:

Use 2 bags of HARD-N-FAST with each bag of portland cement.

For masonry cements:

Use 1 bag of HARD-N-FAST with each bag of masonry cement.

Cold Weather above 32° F, "floaters", glass block & stone:

Cutting the above proportions in half may still give good results.

The recommendations and properties attributed to the product are based upon what is believed to be reliable information. Buyers must make their own investigation and judge the suitability of the product for their intended use. No express or implied warranty is made because satisfactory results depend upon factors beyond our control.

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