



**A series of technical bulletins from SEK-Surebond...  
“Achieving Installation Perfection”**

**TB.2 Weather Can Affect The Outcome**

**Obsession with the  
weather forecast...  
not necessarily  
a bad thing!**

Do you have weather alerts on your mobile phone? A weather radio on your nightstand? A weather website bookmarked on your computer? All of this may seem a bit much to your friends and family but in the business of hardscaping, it is all about being prepared and making sure you are installing weather sensitive products in the very best conditions.

**Why is weather so important with hardscape installations?**

You can follow all instructions to a tee but if it is below or above the desired temperature range or rain shows up just as you are finishing the installation of polymeric sand or sealing the surface - it is game over. The job could turn into a failure.

Manufacturers of polymeric sand and/or hardscape sealers include specific guidelines regarding weather on their product packaging and technical data sheets in order to define the required weather conditions to achieve optimum performance of their products. Those guidelines are meant to be followed and are not negotiable. We recognize you are working on a tight schedule but when you take a chance on the weather, you are now gambling with the outcome of the project.

Polymeric sand requires temperature guidelines be followed correctly before and after installation to give it the best chance to set up properly. If temperatures are too cool, the polymeric sand may not set up within the time specified. If it never reaches the ideal temperature for the required amount of time before rain or snow occurs, the sand will probably not harden which means you may need to do the job all over again.

With polymeric sand, you want to make sure your surface is dry prior to installation and no rain is in the forecast after completing the job for the manufacturer's specified period of time. Sometimes a shower shows up that was not in the forecast; in that case you can cover the project with a tarp to protect the surface. Be sure to remove the tarp as soon as the rain is gone so the air can assist in the curing process. A hard rain on polymeric sand that has not set up properly could result in polymeric sand all over the tops of the pavers.

Sealers also have guidelines regarding proper temperatures and rain for best results. Too cool and the sealer will not absorb into the surface as it should. Too hot and the sealer will flash off the surface and will not absorb as well. Any surface you plan to seal needs to be dry and remain dry after it has been sealed for the manufacturer's recommended time. Any moisture that hits the film as it is drying could affect the sealer in a less than desirable way, such as a cloudy, blotchy surface.

**Go ahead and become obsessed  
with the weather...your reputation  
depends on it!**