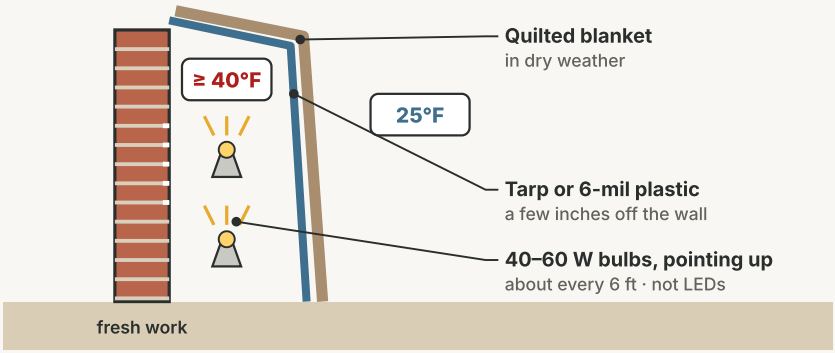
WORK GUIDE · LIME MORTAR IN WINTER

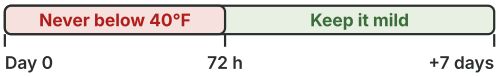
Lime mortar in cold weather

You can keep working in winter. Protect the fresh mortar until it has cured.



The one rule: never let it freeze

Keep the work at **40°F or warmer, day and night, for 72 hours**. Then keep it mild for another 7 days.



1 Go easy on water

Lightly dampen only. A soaked wall freezes from inside. Open tarps on days above 40°F.

2 Mix with hot water

It helps the set. Never add accelerators or antifreeze to lime.

3 Cover and warm it

Tarps a few inches off the wall, sealed at the top and sides. Lamps or thermostat heaters.

4 Add curing days

One extra protected day for every °F the temperature drops below 45°F.

5 Leave it open

A textured finish, not slicked smooth. Smooth joints can crust over and flake.

6 Or wait for spring

If the schedule allows, mild weather beats any tarp and lamp.

+17 days **Example:** mild days but nights down to about 28°F means 17 degrees below 45°F, so plan about 17 extra days of covered, heated curing. Check the wall with an infrared thermometer, day and night.

Cold-weather kit

- [ ] Tarps or 6-mil plastic, and a frame to hold them off
- [ ] Clamp lamps, 40–60 W incandescent (not LED)
- [ ] Quilted blankets for dry nights
- [ ] Infrared thermometer

Heat safely

- ✓ **Gentle and indirect**
  Warm the tent, don't blast the wall.
- ✓ **Thermostat and tip-over cut-off**
  On every heater, with outdoor-rated cords.

Three ways to buy

NHL 3.5 lime mortar · breathable, made for reclaimed brick · joints ⅜" and wider

A sample quart
Priority mail in 1–3 days. Check the cured color.

By the quart or bag
Quart for patches; 38.5 lb bag, just add water.

By the pallet

	Repointing	Laying brick
Bag	30 ft²*	30 bricks
Pallet (64)	**1,920 ft²**	**1,920 bricks**

*Wall with ⅜" joints raked ¾" deep · bricks with ½" joints

Brick calculator
Scan to count bricks and mortar bags

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