

## AEROFLEX Self-Seal<sup>™</sup> Pipe Insulation Cold-Weather Considerations

Aeroflex USA recently introduced an upgrade to our Self-Seal Pipe Insulation. The new and enhanced version includes a double-closure system with two pressure-sensitive adhesive (PSA) tapes that are approved for cold-weather installations.

The outer lap tape is engineered with Avery Dennison's COLD TOUGH<sup>™</sup> Adhesive Technology and is rated to stick when ambient conditions during installation are as low as 0°F [-18°C]. While this product improvement is welcome news for mechanical insulation contractors that work on projects in cold climates, there is an important caveat.

Although our Self-Seal Pipe Insulation is rated for installation to 0°F [-18°C], the product should not be stored in unconditioned spaces below 32°F [0°C] just prior to installation (i.e. the night before). As the PSA becomes colder, firmer uniform pressure is required to achieve acceptable adhesion.

For best results, storage in a conditioned space is recommended in the 64-72°F [18-22°C] range prior to installation.

When PSA's are subjected to colder temperatures in storage, the adhesive will eventually reach a "glass transition" temperature, become stiff, non-tacky, non-functional, and appear glassy. Unlike wet-applied adhesives that freeze and are unusable, the glass transition process can be reversed with our PSA. It will not be permanently damaged and will recover as it warms.

If our Self-Seal Pipe Insulation is subjected to freezing temperatures, it should not be installed until it has acclimated to an ambient temperature above freezing; preferably 64-72°F [18-22°C]. The adhesive will soften and tack up as it warms. The warmer the PSA, the less effort will be required to adhere the PSA lap tape the insulation tube's outer surface (skin).

The use of our AEROFLEX<sup>™</sup> yellow squeegee, included in every carton of Self-Seal Pipe Insulation, is recommended to deliver firm uniform pressure to self-seal's lap tape.

To learn more, click [here](#).