

KEY DO'S & DON'TS when using WINTERSTONE

- Mix with the **LEAST** amount of water to achieve reasonable working consistency
- Mix only sufficient quantity to use within noted times:
Sculpting 45 minutes;
Casting 5 minutes
Icing 45 minutes
- Maintain and/or regain desired consistency by re-mixing/remolding in mixing pot but **avoid using additional water.**
- Spritz/sponge underling layer to “damp” with water before applying fresh mixture
- Do not over-trowel fresh mixture during application to avoid bringing-up watery paste to surface — particularly important in final surface layer
- Try to apply mixture in relatively uniform layers to prevent possible differential drying shrinkage
- Incorporate the recommended reinforcing elements *e.g.* chopped Fiberglas strand/mesh or metallic wire/mesh —reinforcing elements must be totally encased with the WINTERSTONE mixture to be totally effective
- Serrate (roughen) each layer after application of fresh mix to provide “toothing” for follow-up layers and eliminate surface contour irregularities — easily done within initial ½ -1 hour
- To prevent premature drying of freshly applied layer & hence possible “plastic” shrinkage cracks, spritz with water or cover with plastic sheathing/bag within 1-1 ½ hours after application [N.B. incorporating 1% chopped strand (by weight) in the mixture should eliminate this potential problem]
- **Always cover** the piece with plastic sheathing/bag **for the initial 24 hours** after which should be allowed to air dry —particularly critical for final surface layering
- Final surface refinement i.e. smoothing/sanding should not commence before the 3rd day.