

# WINTERIZING

When temperatures dip below the freezing mark a lot of things start happening at the car wash, some good and some bad. Salt covered cars roll in on a regular basis (the good) but the thing that gets most car wash owners attention is a freeze up of their soap lines. I thought I would touch on some things that will help you avoid these pitfalls.

## Your **with Doug** "The In-House Soap Specialist" Car Wash

Winterizing consists of a multi pronged plan to avoid freezing up while continuing to give a quality wash. Starting with the storage of your chemicals: when storing chemicals over the winter months a few simple measures should be taken, place your pails and drums on a skid or a rubber mat to keep the concrete from drawing the heat out of the chemicals. This insures that the chemicals will not end up separating which as a lot of you know occurs when chemicals get too cold. Another thing to consider is as temperatures fall below 50 degrees the soaps and waxes get thicker so the dilution you were dialed into during the summer months has now changed and you are drawing less of the product than before which may have an effect on the quality of wash you are giving. Another side effect is that the mixture of soap going to the bay is watered down more, and more water means it will freeze faster. You may want to consider going up one tip size on most of your chemicals to maintain cleaning ability.

purchase of straight methanol in addition to your soap. Option two is to run a weep system that again requires the purchase of equipment to monitor temperature but will increase your water bill in addition to icing your floors and brushes. Option three is to purchase a blow down system that purges the lines with air when not in use. Option four is to use winterized chemicals specifically foam brush and triple foam. Winterized chemicals consist of a 90% methanol mixture and will get diluted based on a temperature range. A dilution chart in the front of the Kleen Rite catalog gives a range based on temperature; keeping in mind that wind chill factor has to be accounted for. Winterized chemicals carried by Kleen Rite are freeze proof up to -50 degrees. Straight methanol freezes at -137.2 degrees below zero but is very flammable so precaution needs to be taken when handling. When using these chemicals always try to seal the container to the best of your ability due to the fact that methanol evaporates very fast and will also draw moisture out of the air and become contaminated with water.

What system you use is a matter of preference, depending on your location, frequency of temperatures below freezing and having an onsite attendant who can adjust as conditions change. Doing a little investigation into cost vs. savings will help in your decision making process. +

Happy Washing!

**Doug**

"The In-House Soap Specialist"

<b>Hydrominder Dilution</b>	
<b>Temp:</b>	<b>TIP:</b>
24 to 32 degrees	RED TIP
16 to 24 degrees	BEIGE TIP
4 to 16 degrees	BLACK TIP
4 degrees and colder	NO TIP
* <i>Wind Chill Factor Must Be Considered*</i>	

<b>Dema System</b>	
Change Orifice to #2	
Meter Screw= Turn in all the way back off 2 1/2 turns	
<b>Temp</b>	<b>Dilute</b>
32-20	^4/1
20-15	^3/2
* <i>Dema Dilutions are only a Guide</i>	

Foam brush and triple foams are the products that require the most attention since these lines will have product in them and tend to freeze up faster. There are multiple ways to tackle this problem. One is to install an automatic changeover system that works by adjusting the soap mixture and adding methanol to the soap based on current temperature. This method requires the purchase and installation of an electronic device that constantly monitors outside temperatures along with the