



**PIG® Drain Insert Plus in Cold Weather Applications**  
**Questions and Answers**  
10-28-02

1. Does the PIG® Drain Insert Plus work in the winter and in freezing conditions?

Answer: In many cases the PIG® Drain Insert Plus will continue to operate effectively until outdoor temperatures reach zero degrees Fahrenheit. Typically, they will not freeze up in the air temperature of a 0° - 32° F range based on two factors:

- a. The PIG® Drain Insert Plus are below ground and warmer air tends to circulate through the stormwater pipes keeping the temperature elevated in the catch basins and the PIG® Drain Insert Plus less likely to freeze-up.
- b. In locations where snow and freezing temperatures often occur, salt is used on the roads to prevent freezing of surface water. Much of this salt flows into the PIG® Drain Insert Plus and is mixed with the sediment filling the unit. The salt helps prevent the sediment and PIG® Drain Insert Plus from freezing up in temperatures above 0° F.

2. What happens to the PIG® Drain Insert Plus when the outdoor temperature falls below 0° F?

Answer: This temperature has no detrimental effect on the PIG® Drain Insert Plus itself, however extended temperatures of 0° F will cause the sediment and the moisture in the unit to freeze up. This does not present a functional problem since any other water or snow on





the streets will be frozen as well so there is no need for the PIG® Drain Insert Plus to be functional at that time. As the weather warms and stormwater begins to flow once again, the PIG® Drain Insert Plus tends to thaw in a similar time frame, allowing it to function again.

3. Is there ever a cold weather situation where the PIG® Drain Insert Plus may not be effective?

Answer: We are aware of only one limited circumstance. It has been 0° F and the streets and PIG® Drain Insert Plus are frozen solid. Then a very quick warm front moves through (i.e. 60° F air temperature) and there is heavy rain. This warm rain will immediately flow into the catch basins and into the frozen PIG® Drain Insert Plus. Until the PIG® Drain Insert Plus are thawed due to the warmer water, the water will not be filtered by the PIG® Drain Insert Plus, it will simply flow out through the by-pass ports located at the top of the unit. No ponding or flooding would occur and the PIG® Drain Insert Plus would begin functioning again once it thaws. This circumstance does not occur often and is more likely in more southern states like Oklahoma and Texas.

