

Cover Up Cold Birds



Crew chiefs, keeping your aircraft ready during winter is a tough job. It's even tougher if you leave your aircraft uncovered and unprotected on the flightline.

If you can't cover the whole bird during winter weather, at least cover up engine inlets, exhausts, exposed linkages and pitot tubes.

Cover the aircraft when it's dry. Wet covers will freeze in place. If you move an aircraft from the hangar to the helipad, cover it **before** you move it outside.

If a cover freezes to your bird, loosen the edges and use heat from a ground heater to loosen the rest of it.

Closely check uncovered areas during daily inspections. Make sure freezing rain or blowing snow hasn't seeped into exposed moving parts and frozen up the works.

After snow, sleet or an ice storm, take the engine inlet plugs and exhaust covers off and check for ice. If you find any, carefully remove it and thaw the engine with hot air, like your TM says.⁴³

Use covers in extreme cold

