

# Should you go ice climbing?

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**SHADY or N FACING** terrain in continental U.S....

**Too warm?** Any of:

- Rain at climbing site
- Overnight temp over 32°F
- 3+ days hi temp over 34°F
- Temp increase 20°F or more past 48 hours?

**Avy hazard?** Any of:

- Snow on approach or on climb w/ rating of Considerable
- Direct overhead hazard w/ rating of High or Extreme
- Indirect overhead hazard w/ rating of Extreme

**Too cold?** Any of:

- Temp drop more than 20°F past 48 hours AND daggers/pillars overhead or planned objective (~WI5/6)
- Hi temp below 0°F AND ice angle 80° or steeper (~WI4)

**BAIL**

YES

YES

YES

NO

**Ice Conditions.** Any of:

- Hi temp below 10°F
- Ice less than 20cm thick AND more than 20cm snow depth on route (depth of long ice screw)
- Multipitch parties above AND less than 45cm snow on ledges

**CONSIDER**

- Beware brittle ice
- Beware thin ice
- Beware water behind ice
- Beware fall lines above
- Choose conservative/low angle lines
- Choose supported ice (how much ice is touching rock?)
- Beware horizontal fracture lines
- Consider history of prior collapsing

NO

YES

**NORMAL CAUTION**

Does NOT include sunny terrain/aspects  
Temps and weather factors for decisions are those occurring @ climbing site  
Adjust for differences in telemetry vs on-site wx based on elevation & geographic applicability

**WARNING: DECISION AID ONLY. USE AT OWN RISK! PAY ATTENTION TO CONDITIONS.**