

InsulationSmart Checklist

Is that insulation really green?



1. Does the insulation contain harsh or toxic materials or contribute to greenhouse gases or ozone depletion?

- Direct contact with the insulation will not irritate the skin, eyes, nose and throat
- The insulation will not emit Volatile Organic Compounds, ozone-depleting substances, or gases such as HFCs that are referred by the EPA as having high global warming potential

2. Will the insulation maximize energy efficiency by creating an air barrier system?

- The insulation helps minimize random air leakage that's the cause of up to 40% of a home's energy loss
- The insulation adheres well to surrounding building materials to resist sagging, shifting and settling over time

3. Can the insulation help create a healthy indoor environment?

- The insulation helps prevent the intrusion of outdoor pollutants and allergens (The best system combines use of an air barrier system to minimize air leakage and mechanical ventilation to provide a source of fresh filtered air and to get rid of excess moisture)

4. How well does the insulation manage moisture?

- The insulation resists moisture and dries out quickly if it gets wet
- The insulation maintains its insulating value (will not sag or deteriorate) when wet
- The insulation restricts the movement of moisture through walls/ceilings carried by air that can lead to mold and building failure (Did you know up to 99% of the moisture passing through walls and ceilings is carried by air?)

5. Does the insulation help reduce the use of materials?

- The insulation creates an air barrier without using extra materials (tape, caulking, gaskets) often required by conventional fibrous insulation
- Production of the insulation itself requires less material (Note: some open-celled spray foam insulation are only 1% material and 99% air!)

**For every checklist criteria met by the insulation product meets, give it 1 point.
Add up the ___ /10**