



Free checklist for inspecting insulation jobs available from NAIMA Canada

(May 8, 2014, Ottawa, ON) A free tool is now available to help inspect residential and commercial insulation jobs. Released by NAIMA Canada, *Key Checklist For Inspecting Insulation Jobs* is a useful information source for determining whether the insulation in walls, ceilings and floors is properly installed. *Key Checklist* is laminated and conveniently sized to fit into a shirt pocket or a toolbox. It also comes in a printer-friendly wallet sized version.

“While building codes vary widely across the country, there are best practices that can be followed for the most common insulation applications,” said Jay Nordenstrom, Executive Director of NAIMA Canada. “This checklist was developed to provide a quick and convenient information source for contractors, home inspectors and DIY renovators.”

Key Checklist can also be used by new home purchasers prior to delivery inspection or homeowners looking to ensure proper installation by contractors on major home renovations.

Insulation keeps houses warm in the winter and cool in the summer, and saves energy from the day it is installed. To keep its occupants comfortable, buildings with inadequate insulation require the heat or air conditioning to be cranked up, which results in higher energy bills.

Properly installed insulation improves comfort and decreases the amount of energy used, lowering your monthly heating bill and the associated greenhouse gas emissions. Savings vary. Find out why in the seller’s fact sheet on R-values. Higher R-values mean greater insulating power.

To request your free laminated copy from NAIMA Canada email contact@naimacanada.ca or call 613-232-8093. Alternately, you can print the wallet sized checklist by visiting the NAIMA Canada website at naimacanada.ca.

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For more information, or to schedule interviews, contact:
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North American Insulation Manufacturers Association (NAIMA) Canada promotes energy efficiency and environmental preservation through the use of fibre glass, rock wool, and slag wool insulation, and encourages the safe production and use of these materials.

WALL AREAS

- 1. Cavity Fill.** The batts or loose-fill should fill all standard and narrow cavities completely: no gaps at the top or bottom.
- 2. Electrical Wiring.** Insulation should be split or cut to fit around wiring.
- 3. Electrical Boxes.** Batts should be cut to fit around electrical boxes with a piece placed behind each box.
- 4. Plumbing.** Insulation should be placed between the outside wall and the pipes.
- 5. R-value.** The R-value should be marked visibly on the insulation, and should face the interior for inspection. The R-value should meet or exceed the minimum code requirements.
- 6. Fitting.** Batts should friction fit snugly in the cavity, and not be overly compressed.
- 7. Vapour Barrier Placement.** It should be as continuous as possible and installed towards the "warm in winter" living area except in extremely humid areas.
- 8. Vapour Barrier Materials.** Install continuous vapour barrier per the building code. Appropriate vapour retarder materials include continuous polyethylene materials having a water vapour permeance of max 60 ng/pa s m² (1.04 US Perm) as defined by the code.
- 9. Bay Window.** The outside wall, extended floor, and ceiling should be insulated.
- 10. Window and Door Areas.** Spaces around windows and doors should be filled with insulation and sealed with an air barrier material to prevent air leakage around openings.
- 11. Band Joists.** Install batt insulation with a vapour barrier in band joists.

CEILINGS AND FLOORS

- 12. Cantilevered Floors.** These should be insulated at the floor R-value requirements.
- 13. Attic Openings.** The attic opening should be insulated with insulated covers or a piece of batt insulation at the same R-value as the attic requirements and secured in place.

14. Attic Cards. A completed attic card must be installed in the attic as required by CAN ULC S702.

15. Attic Rulers. When blown insulation is used, it is good practice to install attic rulers, one for every 300 square feet of attic area. The installed thickness of blown or poured insulation should not be less than the minimum settled thickness on the attic card.

16. Eave Baffles. Baffles must be installed on eaves with vents to ensure minimum required ventilation per code.

17. Knee Walls. Knee walls should be insulated at wall R-value requirements.

GENERAL

18. Air Infiltration. All insulation requires proper air sealing or the installation of a rated air barrier. All air paths should be sealed using caulk, tape, air barriers or other air sealing measures.

19. Wet-installed Insulation. Any insulation installed with water should be thoroughly dried before covering with gypsum board. Humid climates may require longer drying times.

20. Combustible Sources. Keep all insulation at least 3 inches away from combustible sources such as chimneys, non-IC fixtures, and heated flue pipes.

21. Unheated Rooms. The walls, ceilings, and floors between living space and unheated areas must be insulated. All areas separating a conditioned space from an unconditioned space **MUST** be insulated to the minimum requirements in the applicable building code.

22. Shower/Tub Enclosures. Insulation must be installed between tub enclosures and outside walls.

23. Wet Insulation. Incidental wetting during installation is not usually a problem. Fiber glass or mineral wool batt insulation wetted with clean water can usually be dried and reused. All saturated loose-fill insulation should be replaced.

"Checkpoints for Inspecting Insulation Jobs" is intended to provide useful guidance on how to improve the quality of the installation of insulation products. Use of this guide does not ensure or guarantee compliance with building codes, acceptance by building inspectors, or compliance with any other type of governmental or building requirements. Use of these guidelines does not guarantee any specific level of energy savings or dollar savings. Use of this guidance does not guarantee that mistakes have not been made in the installation process. NAIMA Canada encourages consultation with individual manufacturer's guidance on proper installation of their specific products.