

# HOW TO INSULATE YOUR ATTIC WITH PINK FIBERGLAS<sup>®</sup> INSULATION

- Meets stringent indoor air quality standards (GREENGUARD Certified)
- Reduces energy consumption – saves\* money
- Contains 60% recycled glass
- Extends living space
- Easy to install
- Canada's #1 insulation

## Installation Method

**1** Use separate pieces of PINK FIBERGLAS<sup>®</sup> insulation for rafters and collar beams. Trying to fit a continuous length of insulation where collar beams and rafters meet may result in hard to fill gaps.

**2** When selecting insulation thickness and installing insulation for the rafter portion, the building code requires 2 1/2" of ventilation air space between the insulation and the roof sheathing with no obstructions (except at permitted cross furring). New construction may incorporate 2x3 or 2x4 cross furring over the rafters to achieve the maximum batt thermal resistance while still keeping the top surface of the batts at least one inch below the top of the rafters and cross furring. (Celfort<sup>®</sup> 200 insulation boards may also be installed below the rafters to achieve maximum assembly thermal resistance while maintaining ventilation space above the installed batts. It is a good practice to fasten strapping through the foam boards to the rafters for easy fastening of interior vapour barrier poly and drywall or other interior finish.) To install the batt insulation, the material is pushed up between the rafters until it's flush with the bottom edge of the rafters. If needed install eave vents such as Owens Corning *raft-R-mate*<sup>®</sup> attic rafter vents, and soffit and ridge vents.



**3** If space permits use two layers of R-20 batts or a layer of thick R-35 or R-28 Attic batt insulation. Achieve recommended insulation levels by use of foam board insulation and appropriate batt thickness for rafter depth while maintaining the 2 1/2" air space (in certain cases with 2x3 or 2x4 cross furring).

**4** If a flat ceiling is to be installed, place PINK FIBERGLAS<sup>®</sup> insulation between joists. Place the vapour retarder toward the warm-in-winter side of the living area of the house in heating climates.



**5** Install PINK FIBERGLAS<sup>®</sup> Insulation in end and knee walls and stuff pieces into the narrow areas between studs. To insulate and prevent air leakage around windows apply minimal expanding foam sealant. Narrow areas between studs in the middle of the wall can have pieces of the PINK batts installed. (Be sure that you have fitted all necessary gable and roof vents before placing the insulation.)



**6** As soon as the insulation has been installed, install a vapour retarder and finish the walls and ceiling with an approved interior finish, such as gypsum wallboard.

## RECOMMENDED PRODUCTS

R-20 PINK FIBERGLAS <sup>®</sup> Insulation	6"
R-28 PINK FIBERGLAS <sup>®</sup> Insulation	8 1/2"
R-31 PINK FIBERGLAS <sup>®</sup> Insulation	9 1/2"
R-35 PINK FIBERGLAS <sup>®</sup> Insulation	10 1/2"
R-40 PINK FIBERGLAS <sup>®</sup> Insulation	11"
<i>raft-R-mate</i> <sup>®</sup> Attic Rafter Vents	

Product selection varies by location.

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# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT OUR INSULATING SYSTEM

## 1 What is R-value?

R-value refers to insulation's resistance to heat flow. Insulation is actually a system of tiny air pockets. It is these air pockets that resist the passage of heat, like heat gain in summer and heat loss in winter. The higher the insulation's R-value, the greater the insulating power.

## 2 Which R-value should I choose for my project?

Refer to local building codes for minimum insulation levels and consider increasing to R-2000 levels will be most cost-effective over a long term (e.g. 10 to 20 years).

## 3 Do higher insulation levels create condensation problems?

No. Insulation is not a source of condensation problems. Ventilation, vapour barriers/retarders and air sealing are the general solutions.

## 4 What is a vapour barrier/retarder?

A vapour barrier/retarder is any material located on the warm side of the insulation that will keep condensation from occurring within wall or attic spaces behind it. It stops movement of moisture vapour into wall or attic assemblies by diffusion. Polyethylene is the typical vapour barrier permitted by building codes and is available everywhere.

## 5 I am in the middle of an insulation project, but I accidentally tore the vapour barrier. Is repair necessary?

Yes, the polyethylene generally fills both air barrier and vapour barrier functions so all tears and punctures must be sealed with red contractor sheathing tape or duct tape.

## 6 My attic currently has about six inches of loosefill insulation (loose insulation pieces) and no vapour barrier. If I want to add another six inches of insulation, what type should I use?

Before installing a 6" to 9 1/4" layer of unfaced batts or having a contractor install loosefill insulation, check roof sheathing for evidence of moisture accumulations and seal any leaks into the attic at light fixtures (by taping all edges of a piece of poly over fixture to back of ceiling finish) and by installing a foam gasket around any hatches. If your attic has existing insulation but no vapour barrier, you will need one square foot of free vent area for each 150 square feet of attic floor area. (To add ventilation, consider a combination of soffit and roof vents.)

## 7 If I install a vapour barrier in my attic, do I still need ventilation?

Yes. Even with a good vapour barrier, proper ventilation is considered essential to prevent harmful condensation. Eave vent openings at the roof overhang combined with a ridge vent, roof vent, or gable vents, are effective ways to create a positive movement of air in and out of the attic. As a general rule, when the ceiling slope is less than 1 in 6 the required ventilation is 1 sq. ft. free vent area per 150 sq. ft. ceiling area.

## 8 How do I know what width of insulation to purchase?

Normal construction practices have sidewall and attic framing members at 16" or 24" on centre spacing. Owens Corning has thin products at 15" and 23" widths to fit between framing members and thick batts at 16" and 24" widths to meet over attic framing members.

## 9 Can I increase the effectiveness of PINK FIBERGLAS® Batt's by squeezing more into a smaller space?

No. Compressing thick PINK FIBERGLAS® Batt Insulation into a smaller space will not increase your insulation's efficiency. PINK FIBERGLAS® Insulation works on the principle of trapped, still air pockets. By compressing the insulation, you decrease the effective thickness and the stated R-value.

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