



# NATURALLY BETTER INSULATION



## What is cellulose insulation made from?

Cellulose insulation consists of up to 85% recycled paper and cardboard fibers. It also contains additives for fire resistance, and some has been treated with boric acid for protection from pest infestation and moisture. Cellulose is itch-free and doesn't cause irritation to installers or homeowners.

## Does it have any accoustical benefits?

Cellulose insulation is widely used to help limit exterior noise intrusions as well as noise between rooms, outperforming fiberglass batts and spray foam as sound insulation. Batt insulation can allow sound to escape or penetrate between gaps as small as 1/8", especially around window and door openings. According to the Wall and Ceiling Bureau, batt insulation must fit tightly without gaps for soundproofing to be effective. The hardened foam of polyurethane forms a rigid material that weakens its sound absorption and also creates a resonating chamber that appears to enhance midrange frequencies. Cellulose insulation can be spray-applied or dense-packed into walls, ceilings, and floors. Because it is installed at higher densities than other fiber insulations, it perfectly fills tight spaces around electrical, plumbing, and HVAC elements, windows, and doors, reducing air infiltration and blocking sound transmission. Acoustical testing shows STC rating as high as 56 with one layer of Type C gypsum on each side of the 2-hour wall and 61 when the gap between walls is increased.

## How much insulation is needed?

The amount of insulation depends mainly on the climate in which you are building. Be sure to follow state/province and local codes. To get the marked R-value, it is essential that insulation is installed properly.

## Since cellulose is made from recycled newsprint and carboard, how does that stand up in a fire?

Cellulose has a Class A Fire rating. It is treated with fire retardants to meet all federal, state/province, and local fire safety requirements. The additives added provide an effective one-hour fire rating. The addition of these additives will slow the spread of a fire, allowing you more time to escape any danger. Cellulose insulation is recognized as an approved fire block and as an ignition barrier over foam insulation (International Residential Code (IRC) R316.5.3).

## How is cellulose insulation installed?

Cellulose insulation can be loose-filled, dense-packed or spray-applied into walls, floors, ceilings, and attics. CIMA recommends air sealing the gaps around electrical boxes, plumbing, windows, and other areas within the house prior to installation of insulation material.

## How is cellulose better than the current alternatives?

Cellulose insulation is the only form of carbon-storing insulation commercially available. The cost of cellulose is on par with fiberglass batts yet has significantly better thermal performance. With today's environmentally-conscious homeowners more likely to work from home, installing cellulose provides them with excellent thermal protection, sound benefits, and overall comfort. Cellulose is the best widely available form of insulation for reducing the carbon footprint of a structure.

## What tax incentives are available for home builders?

In the United States, home builders can receive \$2,500 for ENERGY STAR-certified single family homes through the Section 45L Tax Credit for Energy Efficient New Homes, and a larger tax credit is available for home certified to the Department of Energy Zero Energy Ready (ZERH) program. Both in the United States and Canada, incentives are available to new homeowners.

 Cellulose Insulation Manufacturers Association



[www.cellulose.org](http://www.cellulose.org)



[info@cellulose.org](mailto:info@cellulose.org)



(202) 953-4500