THE BEST INSULATION INSTALLATION - ACHIEVING GRADE I

ICAA CONFERENCE 10.04.2017

Mike Barcik Southface





LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Comprehend the Building Thermal Envelope
- Understand energy code air barrier & insulation requirements
- Learn the details of properly installed insulation Grade I



SCOPE OF RESIDENTIAL ENERGY CODE

- Focus is on building envelope
 - Ceilings, walls, windows, floors, foundations
 - Sets insulation levels, window U-factors and SHGC
 - Infiltration control
 - Caulk and seal to prevent air leaks
 - Verify tight envelope with blower door or visual inspection
- Ducts
 - No building cavities as ducts
 - Seal and insulate
 - Verify tight with duct pressurization test
- Lighting equipment
 - high-efficacy lamp required
- No appliance requirements
- Alternatives to prescriptive compliance





RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

- New construction
- 1 and 2 family (R3)
- Multi-family, 3 stories and less (R2 and R4) – IECC
- Additions, Alterations, Repairs

Exempt Buildings

- No conditioning
- Historical



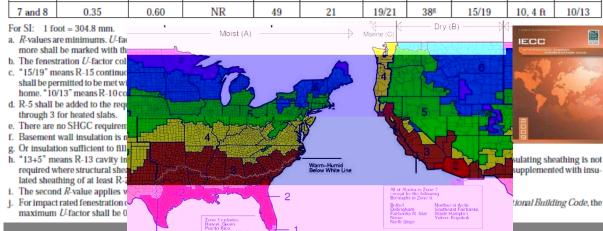
CONDITIONED SPACE. For energy purposes, space within a building that is provided with heating and/or cooling *equipment* or systems capable of maintaining, through design or heat loss/gain, 50°F (10°C) during the heating season and 85°F (29°C) during the cooling season, or communicates directly with a *conditioned space*. For mechanical purposes, an area, room or space being heated or cooled by any *equipment* or appliance.



2009 IECC- Section 402.1



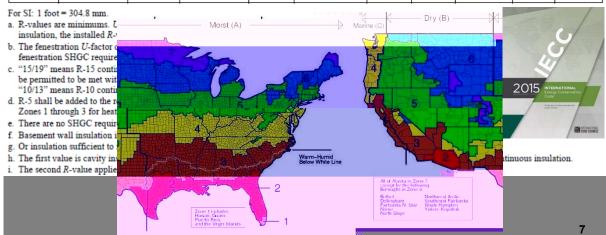
CLIMATE ZONE	FENESTRATION U-FACTOR ^b	SKYLIGHT ^b U-FACTOR	GLAZED FENESTRATION SHGC ^{b, o}	CEILING R-VALUE	WOOD FRAME WALL R-VALUE	MASS WALL R-VALUE	FLOOR R-VALUE	BASEMENT ^c WALL R-VALUE	SLAB ^d R-VALUE & DEPTH	CRAWL SPACE ^c WALL R-VALUE
1	1.2	0.75	0.30	30	13	3/4	13	0	0	0
2	0.65 ^j	0.75	0.30	30	13	4/6	13	0	0	0
3	0.50 ^j	0.65	0.30	30	13	5/8	19	5/13 ^f	0	5/13
4 except Marine	0.35	0.60	NR	38	13	5/10	19	10/13	10, 2 ft	10/13
5 and Marine 4	0.35	0.60	NR	38	20 or 13+5 ^h	13/17	30 ^g	10/13	10, 2 ft	10/13
6	0.35	0.60	NR	49	20 or 13+5h	15/19	30g	15/19	10, 4 ft	10/13
7 and 8	0.35	0.60	NR	49	21	19/21	38 ^g	15/19	10, 4 ft	10/13



2015 IECC- Section 402.1

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CLIMATE ZONE	FENESTRATION U-FACTOR ^b	SKYLIGHT ^b <i>U</i> -FACTOR	GLAZED FENESTRATION SHGC ^{b, o}	CEILING R-VALUE	WOOD FRAME WALL R-VALUE	MASS WALL R-VALUE	FLOOR R-VALUE	BASEMENT° WALL R-VALUE	SLAB ^d R-VALUE & DEPTH	CRAWL SPACE° WALL R-VALUE
1	NR	0.75	0.25	30	13	3/4	13	0	0	0
2	0.40	0.65	0.25	38	13	4/6	13	0	0	0
3	0.35	0.55	0.25	38	20 or 13+5a	8/13	19	5/13 ^f	0	5/13
4 except Marine	0.35	0.55	0.40	49	20 or 13+5h	8/13	19	10 /13	10, 2 ft	10/13
5 and Marine 4	0.32	0.55	NR	49	20 or 13+5h	13/17	30 ⁸	15/19	10, 2 ft	15/19
6	0.32	0.55	NR	49	20+5 or 13+10h	15/20	30 ⁸	15/19	10, 4 ft	15/19
7 and 8	0.32	0.55	NR	49	20+5 or 13+10h	19/21	38 ^g	15/19	10, 4 ft	15/19



GEORGIA TRADE-OFF CONSTRAINTS



"Can't Trade to Zero"

	Carre	auc it	2010								
Updated Table	R40x.xx MINII	MUM INSU	JLATION R-	VALUES FOR	ENVELOP	E COMPONEN	NTS WHEN T	RADE-OFFS ARE	USED (update	es current Table 4	02.1.4)
								Vaulted	Vaulted	Vaulted	
							Ceilings	Unvented	Vented	Unvented	
	Wood framed	Mass	Attic	Basement	Crawl	Floor over	with Attic	Roofline Air-	Roofline Air-	Roofline Air-	
Climate Zone	Walls	Wall	Kneewall	Wall	Wall	unheated	Space	impermeable	permeable	permeable	
2	13	4	18	0	0	13	30	20	20	20+5*	
3	13	5	18	5	5	13	30	20	20	20+5*	
4	13	5	18	5	5	13	30	20	20	20+15*	
	Window Ufacto	or 0.5 max	with SHGC	0.30							
									* - Air imperm	neable as per IRC	8-6.5

Table applies to all Trade-off options:

- RESCheck
- UA Trade-off
- Simulated Perf
- Energy Rating Index



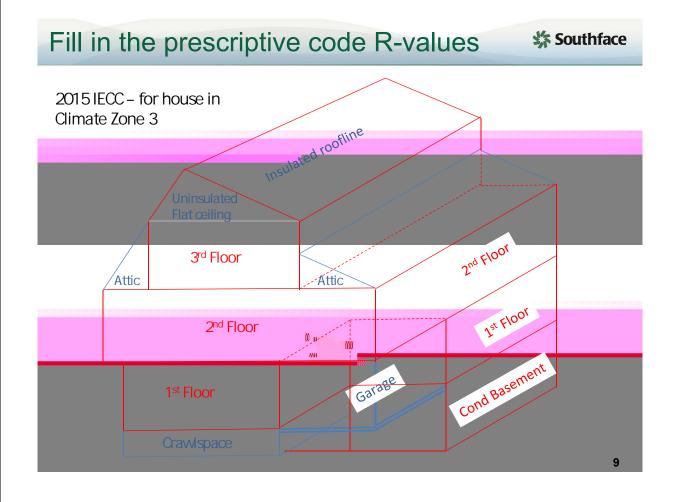
ERI Targets

CZ2 - 57

CZ3 - 57

CZ4 - 62





RESIDENTIAL ENERGY CODE FIELD STUDY – GEORGIA RESULTS

8 Key Items:

- High-efficiency lighting
- Envelope tightness (ACH50)
- Duct leakage
- Exterior wall insulation
- Ceiling insulation
- Foundation insulation (floor / basement wall / slab)
- Window U-factor
- Window SHGC



63 observations of each key item minimum



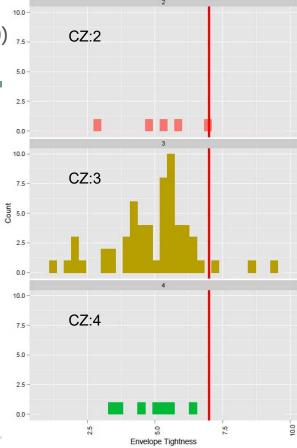
ENVELOPE TIGHTNESS (ACH50)

NO. OF OBSERVATIONS: 73

Vertical red line indicates the 2009 IECC prescriptive code requirement of 7 ACH50 (max.)

Only 4 results worse than code of 73 tests conducted

The average ACH50 for all homes tested was 4.9



Lower is Better!



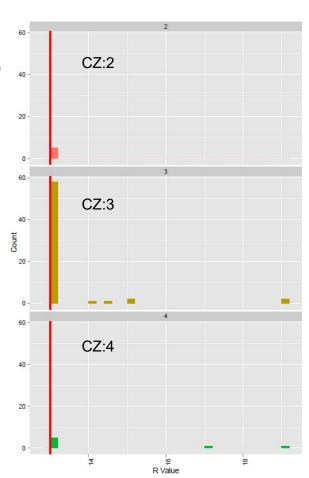
FRAME WALL R-VALUE (CAVITY) NO. OF OBSERVATIONS: 76

Vertical red line indicates the 2009 IECC prescriptive code requirement of R-13 for all CZ's

Quality of installation (Grade) was generally **poor**

Higher is Better!





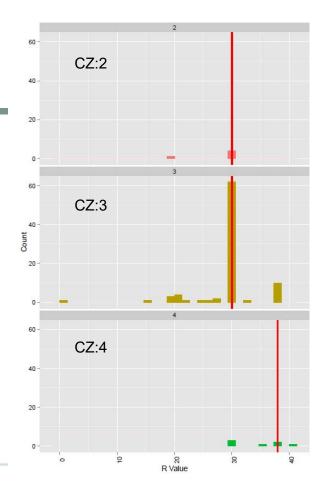
CEILING R-VALUE

NO. OF OBSERVATIONS: 99

Vertical red line indicates the 2009 IECC prescriptive code requirement of R-30 in CZ's 2 & 3 and R-38 in CZ 4

GA Code allows ceiling insulation to be traded down to as low as R-19

Quality of installation (Grade) was generally **average to poor**



Higher is Better!



Section 402.2: Insulation Requirements Southface



- Details for insulating various aspects of the building envelope
 - Ceilings with Attic 402.2.1
 - Ceilings w/out Attic 402.2.2
 - Access hatches and doors-402.2.3
 - Mass Walls 402.2.4
 - Steel Framing 402.2.5
 - Floors 402.2.6
 - Basement Walls 402.2.7
 - Slab-on-grade 402.2.8
 - Crawlspace Walls 402.2.9
 - Masonry Veneer 402.2.10
 - Sunrooms 402.2.11

402.2.1 - Ceilings with Attics

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 GA: R-19 acceptable under HVAC attic platforms (32 s.f./platform + 32" walkway)
 Rulers required every 300 s.f.



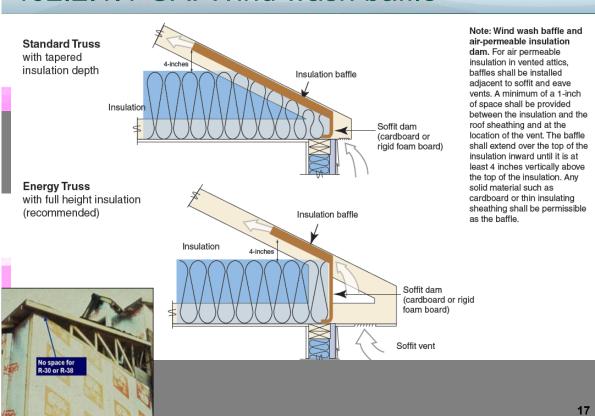




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402.2.1.1 GA: Wind wash baffle





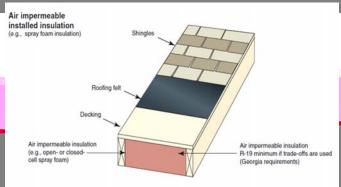
402.2.2 - Ceilings without Attics

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- R-30 for 20% (up to 500 s.f.) acceptable for CZ4
- Vaulted ceilings and foam sprayed rooflines will need to perform an R-value trade-off (REScheck)

GA specific: Can trade down to R-19 if only spray foam insulation is used (air impermeable insulation)

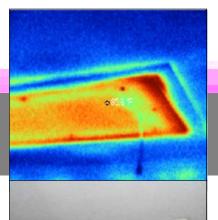




19

402.2.3 - Attic Access





If 990 s.f. = R-30, and 10 s.f. = R-1, Effective R-value = R-23! Weather-strip and insulate access doors (GA clarification)

Vertical doors: R-5

Pull-down stairs: R-5

Hatches/scuttle hole covers: R-19







402.2.6 - Floors

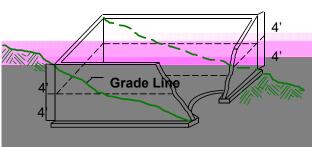
 Floors – insulation must maintain continuous permanent contact against subfloor



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402.2.7 Basement Walls





cz4: R-10 continuous or R-13 cavity

• cz3: R-5 continuous or R-13 cavity

• cz2: No insulation

required

Basement Wall -

Average gross wall

grade and enclose

conditioned space

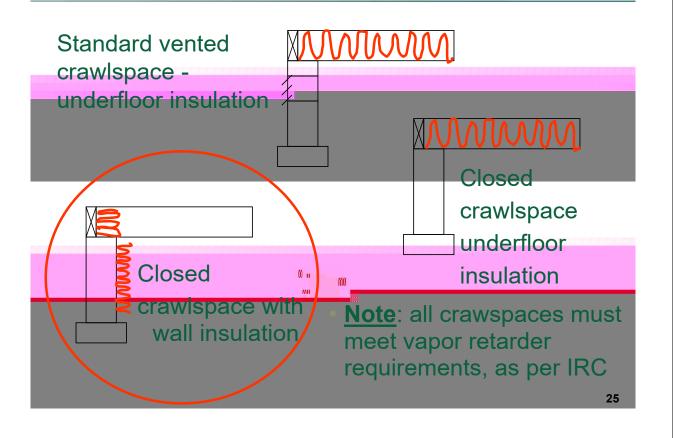
must be > 50% below



Insulation strategies:



402.2.9 Crawlspace Walls - 3 Options Southface



Closed Crawlspaces



- Seal ground with plastic (6" up walls, 6" overlaps)
- Insulate interior of walls to satisfy code (R-10 in CZ4, R-5 in CZ3, R-0 in CZ2)
 - Eliminate all vents and leaks (access doors)
 - Satisfy IRC exception to vent requirement (2006 IRC

section R408.3)

Venting Exceptions:

- Continuous exhaust (radon)
- Direct condition crawlspace (supply)
- Direct condition (dehumidifier)



Critical Details:

- No drainage problems
- Use a sealed combustion / direct vent furnace or install a Heat Pump
- Pest Control and Code
 Official awareness

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402.2.9 - Crawlspace Walls



402.2.9 Crawl space walls. As an alternative to insulating floors over crawl spaces, crawl space walls shall be permitted to be insulated when the crawl space is not vented to the outside. Crawl space wall insulation shall be permanently fastened to the wall and extend downward from the floor to within 9 inches (229 mm) of the finished interior grade adjacent to the foundation wall. A 3-inch (76 mm) inspection/view strip immediately below the floor joists shall be provided to permit inspections for termites. Exposed earth in unvented crawl space foundations shall be covered with a continuous Class 1 vapor retarder in accordance with the *International Building Code*. All joints of the vapor retarder shall overlap by 6 inches (152 mm) and be sealed or taped. The edges of the vapor retarder shall extend at least 6 inches (228 mm) up the stem wall and shall be attached and sealed to the stem wall. (Effective January 1, 2011)



Insulate band joist area

3-inch view strip (removable)

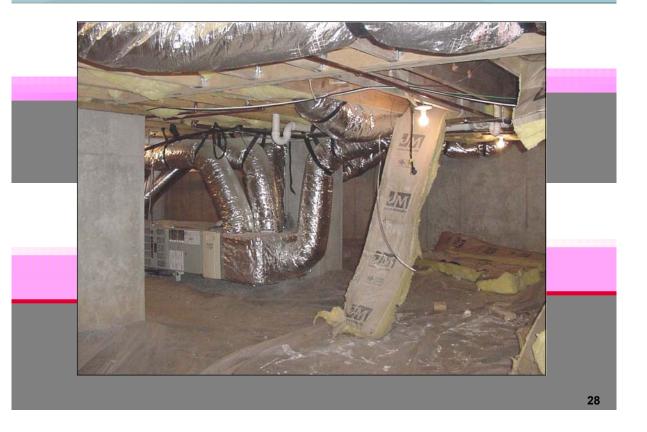
Crawl space wall insulation to

extend within 9 inches of
finished interior grade

Complete plastic sealed to walls
at least 6 inches up the stem wall

Reality of Underfloor Insulation





BLOWER DOOR ENVELOPE TESTING

- Required by 2011 GA Energy Code (< 7 ACH50)
- Quantifies the Amount of Leakage Across the Home's Thermal Boundary
- Administered by a Certified Professional
- Reported to Builder and Code Official





HOW TO FAIL A BLOWER DOOR TEST



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HOW TO FAIL A BLOWER DOOR TEST



HOW TO FAIL A BLOWER DOOR TEST



Don't Air Seal Blocking (Just Cover Over With Insulation)

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HOW TO FAIL A BLOWER DOOR TEST



Don't Complete Kneewalls (Just Cover Over With Insulation)

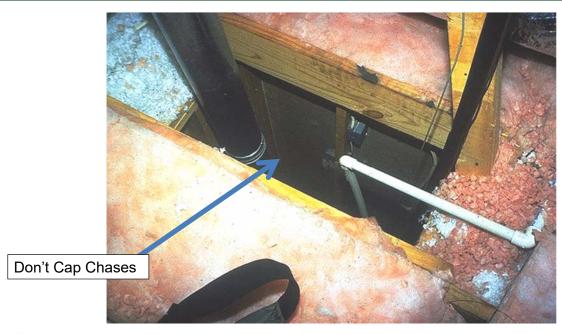
HOW TO FAIL A BLOWER DOOR TEST



Don't Complete Kneewalls (Just Cover Over With Insulation)

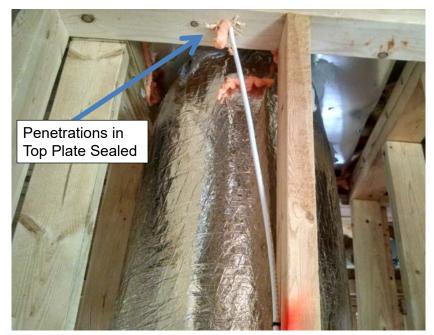
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HOW TO FAIL A BLOWER DOOR TEST



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CORRECT PRACTICES



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CORRECT PRACTICES

Chase capped and sealed around duct



CORRECT PRACTICES



Complete air barrier behind tub

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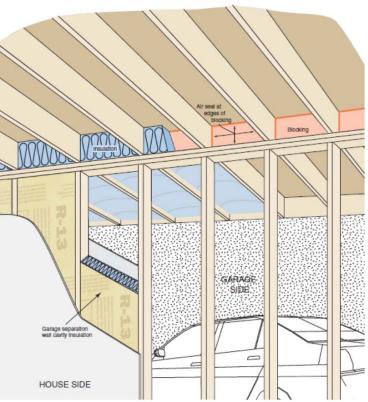


Garage on Other Side of Wall

Sarage on Other Side of V

Garage blocking and sealing key points

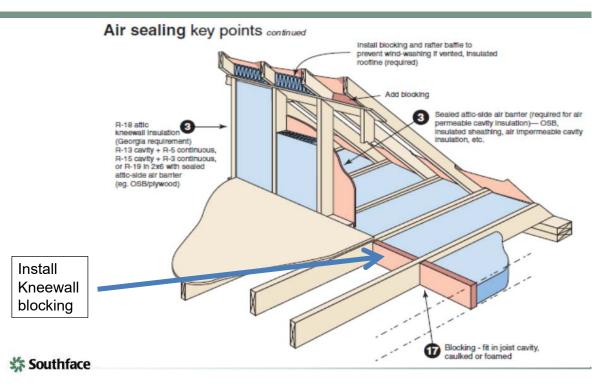
Blocking, air sealing and insulation required above garage separation wall



CORRECT PRACTICES



CORRECT PRACTICES - KNEEWALLS



INSTALLING INSULATION

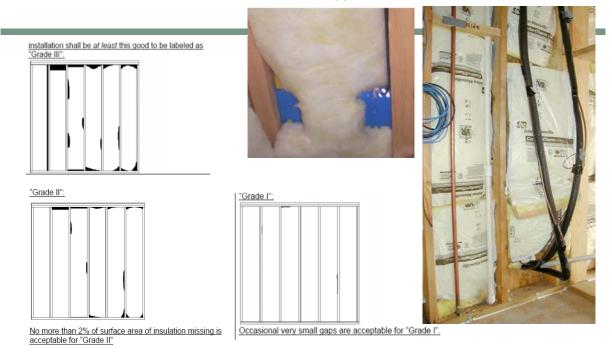






INSULATION INSTALLATION: GRADE I, II, OR III

Unless verified, assume Grade III (worst) – see Appendix A-11-16





INSULATION INSTALLATION: RESNET APPENDIX A

- Voids / Gaps
- Compression / Incomplete fill

Rated Feature	Task	On-Site Inspection Protocol					
Rated Feature Insulation Installation Installation Instal	Task Determine cavity insulation installation characteristics	On-Site Inspection Protocol When it is possible to inspect insulation as installed (i.e., new construction), inspecto shall rate the installation as "Grade I, II, or III" according to the following guidelines regardless of insulation material or installation process. Note that all insulation installation techniques require proper care to ensure they are completed correctly, if they are not, thermal performance can suffer dramatically. These guidelines apply to cavity fill insulation, continuous rigid insulation, and any other field-installed insulation products. 1. "Grade I" shall be used to describe insulation that is generally installed according to manufacturers instructions and/or industry standards. A "Grade I" installation required that the insulation material uniformly fills each cavity side-to-side and top-to-bottom without substantial gaps or voids around obstructions (such as blocking or bridging), and is split, installed, and/or fitted tightly around wiring and other services in the cavity. To inspect, probe in, around, or through the insulation and/or vapor retarder is several places to see whether these requirements are met. Replace or repair the vapor retarder and insulation as necessary. During inspection (typically before drywall is installed), if the exterior sheathing is visible from the building interior through gaps it the cavity insulation material, it is not considered a "Grade I" installation. To attain a rating of "Grade I", wall insulation shall be enclosed on all six sides, and shall be in substantial contact with the sheathing material on at least one side (interior or exterior) of the cavity. Exception: the interior sheathing/enclosure material is optional in climate zones 1-3, provided insulation is adequately supported and meets all other requirements. For rim or band joist insulation, use the inspection guidelines under "Walls—Insulation value" to assess "Grade I", "Grade II", or "Grade III" installation.					

Appendix A

Source: www.resnet.us

A-11

45

INSULATION INSTALLATION: GRADE I



For exterior applications of rigid insulation, insulation shall be in firm contact with the structural sheathing materials, and tightly fitted at joints to be considered a "Grade I" installation

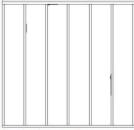
For faced batt insulation, Grade I can be designated for side-stapled tabs, provided the tabs are stapled neatly (no buckling), and provided the batt is only compressed at the edges of each cavity, to the depth of the tab itself, and provided it meets the other requirements of Grade I.

For sprayed or blown-in products, density shall be sufficient that the fill material springs back when compressed slightly with a hand or finger, and provided it meets the other requirements of Grade

Interpretation:

The following illustrations represent the boundary conditions between Grade I and Grade II, that is, the installation shall be at least this good to be labeled as "Grade Γ ":

The following standards may be applied as a reference: NAIMA, Recommendations for Installation in Residential and Other Light-Frame Construction—Fiber Glass Home Insulation (PUB # BI402), Recommendations for Installation in Residential and Other Light-Frame Construction—Fiber Glass Loose Fill Insulation (PUB # BI403), CIMA, Technical Bulletin #2 — Standard Practice for Installing Cellulose Building Insulation, Technical Bulletin #3 — Standard Practice for Installation of Sprayed Cellulosic Wall Cavity Insulation. For other products and materials, manufacturer's installation instructions will apply.



Occasional very small gaps are acceptable for "Grade I".



Compression or incomplete fill amounting to 2% or less, if the empty spaces are less than 30% of the intended fill thickness, are acceptable for "Grade Γ ".



INSULATION INSTALLATION: GRADE II

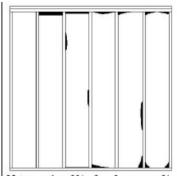


2. "Grade II" shall be used to describe an installation with moderate to frequent installation defects: gaps around wiring, electrical outlets, plumbing and other intrusions; rounded edges or "shoulders"; or incomplete fill amounting to less than 10% of the area with 70% or more of the intended thickness (i.e., 30% compressed); or gaps and spaces running clear through the insulation amounting to no more than 2% of the total surface area covered by the insulation. To attain a rating of "Grade II", wall insulation shall be enclosed on all six sides, and shall be in substantial contact with the sheathing material on at least one side (interior or exterior) of the cavity.

Interpretation:

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The following illustrations represent the boundary conditions between Grade II and Grade III, that is, the installation shall be at least this good to be labeled as "Grade II":





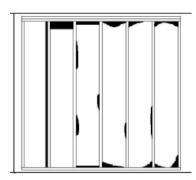
No more than 10% of surface area of insulation compressed or incomplete fill, by up to 30% (70% or more of intended thickness) is acceptable for "Grade II".

No more than 2% of surface area of insulation missing is acceptable for "Grade II"

Source: www.resnet.us 47

INSULATION INSTALLATION: GRADE III





3. "Grade III" shall be used to describe an installation with substantial gaps and voids, with missing insulation amounting to greater than 2% of the area, but less than 5% of the surface area is intended to occupy. More than 5% missing insulation shall be measured and modeled as separate, uninsulated surfaces according to 3.B.5.p. This designation shall include wall insulation that is not in substantial contact with the sheathing on at least one side of the cavity, or wall insulation in a wall that is open (unsheathed) on one side and exposed to the exterior, ambient conditions or a vented attic or crawlspace. The presence of an air-impermeable barrier such as housewrap will be considered to enclose the building cavities.

Interpretation:

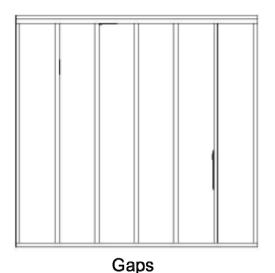
The following illustration represents the boundary conditions between Grade III and the situation whereby one must measure the uninsulated areas; that is, the installation shall be at least this good to be labeled as "Grade III":

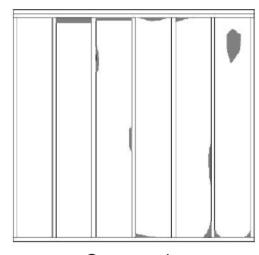


GRADE I

Appendix A-11 - A-13

- occasional very small gaps
- less than 2% compression/incomplete fill (which may not be more than 30% compressed)





Compression

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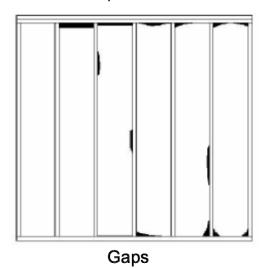
Source: www.resnet.us

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GRADE II

Appendix A-13 - A-15

- < < 2% gaps
- <10% compression/incomplete fill (which may not be more than 30% compressed in depth)





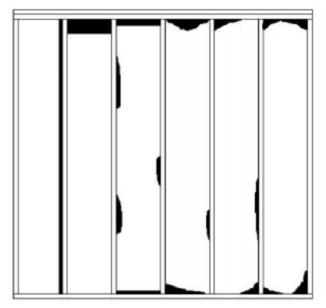
Compression



GRADE III

Appendix A-15 - A-16

- > 2% and < 5% gaps
- (greater than 5% = downgraded R-value)



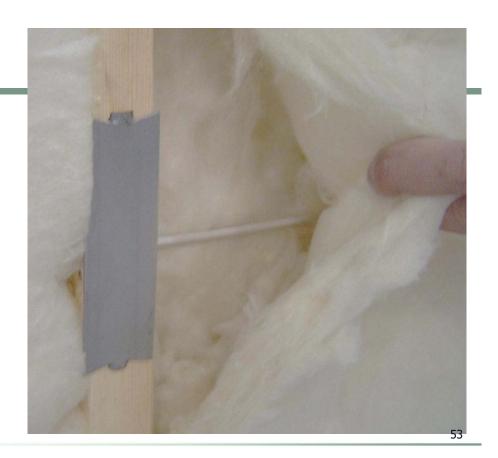
Gaps

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Source: www.resnet.us

WHAT GRADE?

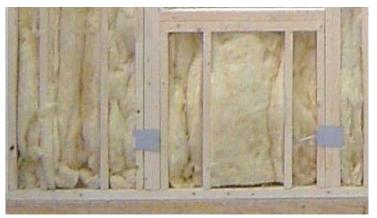
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What Grade?







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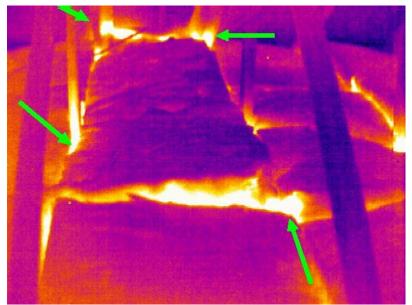
WHAT GRADE?





CONTINUOUS INSULATION & AIR BARRIER

Building Thermal Envelope (air barrier and insulation must be in contact)



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INSTALLING INSULATION





INSTALLING INSULATION

- Voids / Gaps
- Compression / Incomplete Fill

2015 IECC (2018 Georgia Energy Code)

Georgia Insulation Installation - Passing Grade Details

Wall and ceiting insulation that makes up portions of the building thermal envelope in Georgia residences shall be installed to Passing Grade quality.

Two criteria affect installed insulation grading: voids/ gaps (in which no insulation is present in a portion of the overall insulated surface) and compression/incomplete fill (in which the insulation does not fully fill out or extend to the desired depth).

<u>Voids/Gaps</u>

○ Voids or gaps in the insulation are < 1% of overall component surface area (only occasional and very small gaps allowed for Passing Grade)

Compression/Incomplete Fill

- Compression/Incomplete Fill for both air permeable insulation (e.g., fiberglass, cellulose) and air impermeable insulation (e.g., spray polyurethane foam) must be less than 1 inch in depth or less than 30% of the intended depth, whichever is more stringent. The allowable area of compression/incomplete fill must be less than 2% of the overall insulated surface to achieve a Passing Grade.
- Any compression/incomplete fill with a depth greater than the above specifications (up to 1" or 30% of the intended depth, whichever is more stringent) shall not achieve a Passing Grade.

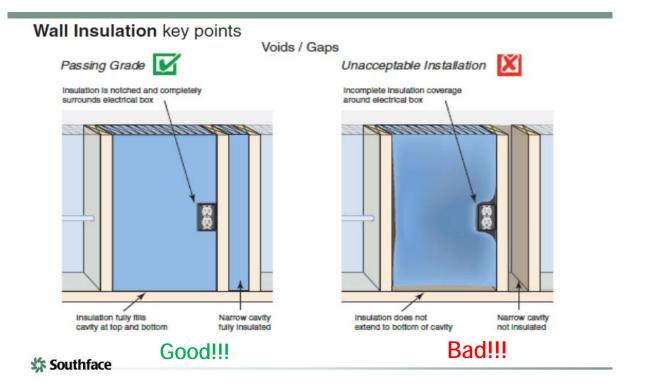
- Additional Wall Insulation Requirements

 All vertical air permeable insulation shall be installed in substantial contact with an air barrier on all six (6) sides. Exception: Unfinished basements, rim/band joist cavity insulation and fireplaces (insulation shall be restrained to stay in
 - place).
 For unfinished basements, air permeable insulation and associated framing in a framed cavity wall shall be installed
 - Attic kneewall details Attic kneewalls shall be insulated to a total R-value of at least R-18 through any combination of cavity and continuous insulation. Air permeable insulation shall be installed with a fully sealed attic-side air barrier (e.g., OSB with seams caulked, rigid insulation with joints taped, etc.). Attic kneewalls with air impermeable insulation shall not require an additional attic-side air barrier.





WALL INSULATION - VOIDS / GAPS



WALL INSULATION – COMPRESSION / INCOMPLETE FILL



PHOTOS OF INSULATION

- Please note wall and ceiling vapor retarders are not required in Climate Zones 1-4
- Often, kraft paper-facing on batts adversely impacts installation

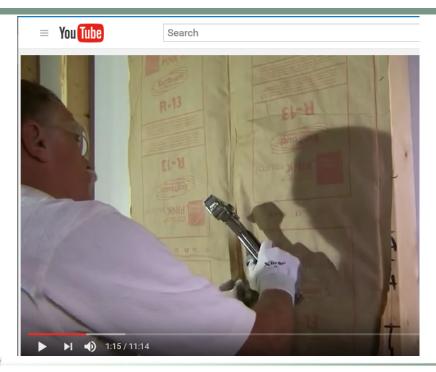




PHOTOS OF INSULATION



VIDEOS OF INSULATION INSTALLATION

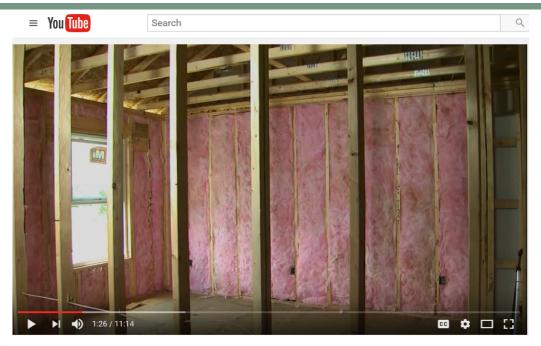


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VIDEOS OF INSULATION INSTALLATION



VIDEOS OF INSULATION INSTALLATION



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VIDEOS OF INSULATION INSTALLATION



Ugly Ceiling Insulation





FLOOR INSULATION

Underfloor insulation that makes up portions of the building thermal envelope in Georgia residences shall be installed to Passing Grade quality.

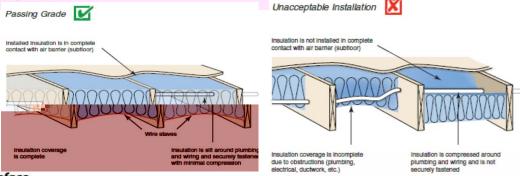
Two criteria affect installed insulation grading: voids/ gaps (in which no insulation is present in a portion of the overall insulated surface) and compression/incomplete fill (in which the insulation does not fully fill out or extend to the desired depth).

Voids/Gap

Voids or gaps in the insulation are minimal for Passing Grade (< 2% of overall component surface area)

Compression/Incomplete Fill

- Compression/Incomplete Fill for both air permeable insulation (e.g., fiberglass, cellulose) and air impermeable
 insulation (e.g., spray polyurethane foam) must be less than 1 inch in depth or less than 30% of the intended depth,
 whichever is more stringest. The allowable area of compression/incomplete fill must be less than 10% of the overall
 insulated surface to achieve a Passing Grade.
- Any compression/incomplete fill with a depth greater than the above specifications (up to 1" or 30% of the intended depth, whichever is more stringent) shall not achieve a Passing Grade.
- Air-permeable underfloor insulation shall be permanently installed against the subfloor decking. Adequate insulation supports (e.g., wire staves) for air permeable insulation shall be installed at least every 18-24. Exception: The floor framing-cavity insulation shall be permitted to be in contact with the tops de of sheathing or continuous insulation installed on the bottom side of floor framing where combined with insulation that meets or exceeds the minimum wood frame wall R-value and that extends from the bottom to the top of all perimeter floor framing members.





ACME BASE - 2816 S.F. HOME IN REM/RATE

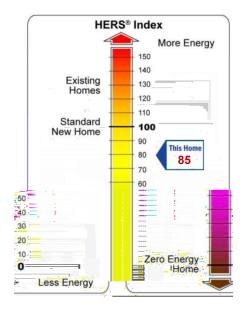
- Two mechanical systems both in the vented attic
- 75% of 1st floor ducts inside; all others plus 2nd floor ducts in attic
 - 80% furnaces, 14 SEER A/C's, no mechanical ventilation, 50 gal gas DHW
 - Basic 2009 energy code compliant R-values (assume Grade III)
 - R-30 flat ceiling, R-19 vault
 - R-13 grade III + OSB walls
 - R-19 floor over garage; no slab insulation



- Typical DP low-e windows: U-0.35 SHGC-0.30; poor orientation
- Duct leakage is 12% Total; 8% To Outside
- Envelope Leakage is 7 ACH₅₀, 0.45 ELR₅₀, 3009 cfm₅₀
- Elec rate 12.5¢/kWh + \$10 base fee; Gas rate 75¢/therm + \$20 base fee



HERS RATING ACME HOUSE





- R-13 Grade III: (U-0.097)
 Htg + Clg Cost: \$475+\$346
- R-13 Grade I: (U-0.085) Htg + Clg Cost: \$448+\$340
- Saves \$33 / year



WRAP UP AND ENERGY CODE RESOURCES

Thank you!

mikeb@southface.org

Online educational resources are available by visiting: www.southfaceonlinetraining.org

Technical assistance or training requests can be submitted to Energy Code Hotline at: energycodes@southface.org or 404-604-3598

Additional Resources

DOE Field Study: For additional information on other DOE Field Studies and participating states, visit the Building Energy Codes website here: https://www.energycodes.gov/compliance/energy code field studies

Georgia Field Study: If you would like further information regarding the Georgia Energy Code Field Study, please visit our project webpage found at: www.seealliance.org



