



Community Development and Sustainability Department

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RESIDENTIAL INSULATION REQUIREMENTS FOR EXISTING ATTICS

Installation of Insulation in Existing Buildings

Insulation installed in an existing attic shall comply with the applicable requirements listed below. The insulation installer shall certify that the insulation meets the applicable requirements of Subsections 1 or 2 below.

1. If insulation is installed in an existing attic of a residential building, the R-value of the total amount of insulation shall be R-30.
2. If the insulation is being installed in the existing attic in order to comply with the cool-roof requirements then the total amount of insulation shall be R-38.

EXCEPTION: Where the accessible space in the attic is not large enough to accommodate the required R-value, the entire accessible space shall be filled with insulation provided such installation does not violate the attic ventilation requirements found in the California Building Code (Section 1203.2, 1" clear space for attic ventilation).

NOTES:

1. **A CF2R is required to be completed by the installer (2013 CF2R-ENV-03-E).** A simplified version of the form can be obtained at the Building Division website.
<<LINK TO FORM>>
2. Existing recessed luminaires must be IC rated or provide space between luminaire and insulation per manufacturer's installation instructions.
3. Combustion air openings for combustion, ventilation and dilution air are required for all closets and similar enclosures that house fuel burning appliances. The opening is not allowed to be screened and a sleeve shall be installed to prevent the opening from being obstructed by insulation.
4. Appliance B vents passing through the attic shall have clearance to combustibles as specified by the manufacturer, typically 1" minimum. Combustible insulation must be installed to maintain the minimum clearance to combustibles.
5. Insulation shall extend to the outside edge of the exterior top plates and is flush against any ventilation dams/baffles.
6. Insulation shall be in direct contact with ceiling, so there are no gaps between the ceiling and the insulation.
7. Knee walls and skylight shafts shall be insulated to the wall R-value and in full contact with the interior air barrier.
8. Attic access doors shall be insulated to the same R-value as the ceiling. The insulation shall be permanently attached using adhesive or mechanical fasteners.
9. Attic access must be surrounded with a dam at least the same depth as the insulation to prevent loss of ceiling insulation.
10. Insulate soffits by adding an air barrier and covering with insulation, or insulate the entire soffit including floor and walls.