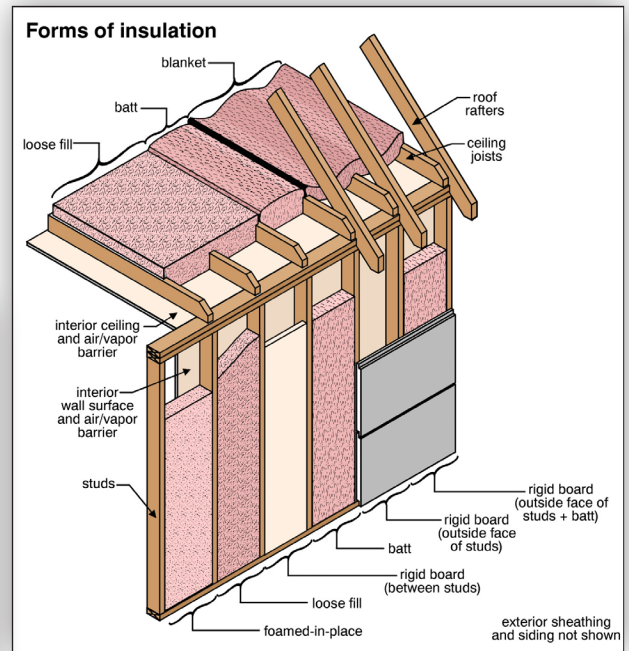
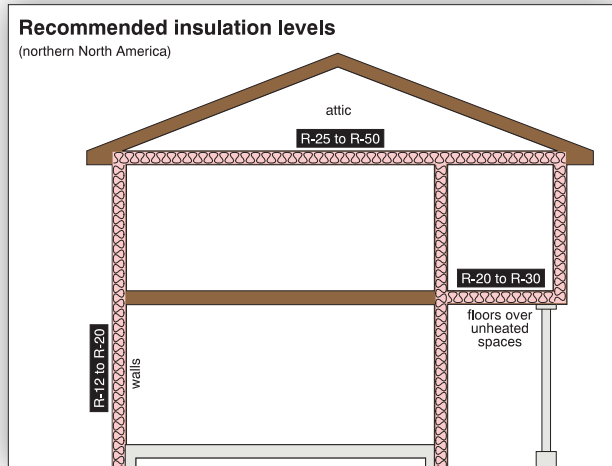


FORMS OF INSULATION Insulation can be batts, blankets, loose fill, boards, or sprayed-in-place.

INSULATION LEVELS The illustration below provides a guideline for insulation levels in heating climates.



Let's look at some common insulation materials.

2.0 Common Insulation Materials

2.1 Fiberglass (R-Value 2.9-4.2 per inch)

DESCRIPTION Fiberglass insulation is one of the most common insulation materials available and is made from threads of glass glued together with phenolic resins. It is available in batt form, rigid board and loose fill. It is resistant to moisture, mildew, fungus and vermin, and some types are non-combustible. It is, however, a skin and eye irritant and inhaling small threads of fiberglass is not healthy. These irritations are only common during installation, and once the material is in place it is not considered to be a problem.

2.2 Mineral Wool (R-Value 3.0-3.2 per inch)

Mineral wool is similar to fiberglass except that mineral waste is used to form the wool-like material. It, too, is available in batt form, rigid board or as loose fill. Its insulating value is comparable to fiberglass and it has very good resistance to fire and rot. It is less irritating to work with than fiberglass.

2.3 Cellulose Fiber (R-Value 3.4-3.6 per inch)

Cellulose fiber is essentially paper, finely shredded and chemically treated to resist moisture, fire, rot and vermin. It is usually blown in or poured. It is prone to settling. Due to its relatively low cost, this material is very popular. Usually gray in color, it has a similar texture to lint. Cellulose fiber absorbs water, which reduces its effectiveness.