

# Installing new insulation? Here's what you need to know.



Talk to your insulation contractor about how to ensure a quality installation that will help improve your home's energy efficiency, comfort and safety.

## Prepare

Have a look at what you've got. Can you simply have your existing insulation topped up to increase the R-value, or is some preparation work required before you can start? Here are some things to consider:

- Ask your contractor to determine if there are any pest infestations or rodent tunnels in your existing insulation. Any traces of rodents must be removed before new insulation is installed to remain eligible for a rebate.
- If your home was built before 1950, have it checked for knob and tube wiring. If found, active knob and tube wiring should be decommissioned and rewired. Contact a licensed electrician to help with this.
- If your home has vermiculite insulation you may need to have it checked and/or removed by an asbestos abatement company.
- Mold and/or water damage must be removed, the area cleaned and the cause rectified, before any air sealing and insulation work is done.
- Ask your contractor to check that all exhaust vent ductwork is properly connected before installing new insulation or air sealing. This could be a plumbing vent, vertical furnace or water heater vent.

## What is R-value?

R-value is a measure of resistance to heat flow. As warm air tends to flow toward cooler air, the higher the R-value of insulation, the more effectively it will resist heat loss from your home in winter. In summer it helps prevent warm outside air from entering your cooler home. Colder climates require a higher R-value insulation. For example, a home in Prince George requires R-60 in the attic, while a home in Vancouver only requires R-40.

# 5 tips for a quality installation

**Seal holes:** before your contractor installs the new insulation ensure they're aware of penetrations and holes around pot lights, vents and ducts that will need to be sealed.

**Batten down the hatch:** be sure your contractor seals around the attic hatch door and secures it to ensure air tightness and that when you open the hatch, insulation doesn't fall out.



Attic access hatch with insulated gypsum cover

**Don't block attic vents and soffits:** to deter mold growth, the insulation must not block attic vents or cover soffits.

**Get even:** if using batt insulation, make sure there are no gaps between the batts. Blown-in insulation should be installed with an even thickness throughout the space.



Batt insulation with no gaps

**Make space to vent:** leaving a three-inch gap around chimneys and vents will allow excess heat to escape without heating up the insulation.



Three-inch gap around chimney



For rebate information, full terms and conditions and to find a program registered insulation contractor, visit [fortisbc.com/insulation](http://fortisbc.com/insulation), [bchydro.com/homerebates](http://bchydro.com/homerebates) or [betterhomesbc.ca](http://betterhomesbc.ca).

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