

Checklist

New House

Use this checklist to work with your builder to ensure your insulation levels help you achieve a comfortable and energy efficient home.

Remember when choosing insulation, a higher R-Value equals better thermal performance. Always choose the highest R-Value that your budget will allow.

The first step towards building a comfortable and energy efficient home is booking a time with your builder/architect to discuss your insulation requirements. Here are the ten questions you need to ask:

1.

What *type* of insulation will be installed into my home?

(There are many types of insulation, so make sure the insulation your builder uses provides thermal and acoustic comfort).

2.

Does the insulation product meet *Australian Standards*?

(Make sure your builder uses insulation products that are in compliance with AS/NZS 4859.1).

3.

Is the insulation you are using *non-combustible*? (*i.e. can it catch fire*)

(Some types of insulation are more likely to catch fire than others. Insulation products, such as glasswool, are naturally non-combustible because they are manufactured with materials that cannot catch fire).

4.

What is the insulation made from and could it have any effect on the indoor air quality of my home?

(Some chemicals such as formaldehyde and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) added during the manufacturing process of some products could contribute to lower levels of indoor air quality – this is particularly important to note if you or anyone in your family is sensitive to airborne chemicals).

5.

What is the *density* of the insulation being installed?

(Only a high density will deliver both thermal performance benefits and acoustic performance improvement – reducing sound transfer between rooms, floors and external noise).

6.

Will insulation be installed to cover *ceilings, floors, external and internal walls*?

(Homes with insulation in walls, floors and ceilings are saving up to \$450* on electricity bills per year compared to homes without insulation in these areas. Building a new home is the best time to install insulation in walls, floors and ceiling).

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7.

How will you achieve compliance with the Building Code of Australia's minimum energy efficiency requirements for my new home?

(Your builder can choose how to achieve the minimum energy efficiency requirements of the Building Code of Australia through either a "star rating" using the NatHERS software or by building according to the 'Deemed to Satisfy' provisions of the National Construction Code. If getting a "star rating", higher insulation levels could make it more cost-effective to achieve the minimum "star rating" – refer to thinkinsulation.com.au for more information).

8.

How *much* insulation will be installed and will this exceed the *minimum* Building Code of Australia requirements for my area?

(The Building Code sets different minimum levels of insulation – "R-Values" – for different climates in Australia. These are minimum levels only and remember the higher the R-Value the better the energy efficiency of the home. Ceiling insulation is available up to R-6.0, wall insulation is available up to R-2.7 (90mm cavity), underfloor insulation is available up to R-2.1. Always choose the highest R-Value that your budget will allow).

9.

Are the insulation levels appropriate for the appliances that will be used for heating and cooling my home?

(Approximately 40% of the energy used in the average Australian home is used for heating and cooling. That's why having appropriate levels of insulation can have a big impact on the amount of time and money you will spend on heating and cooling. If you have ducted air-conditioning, make sure that your builder uses appropriately certified flexible ducting).

10.

What are my options to upgrade the insulation, and what is the cost?

(Building a new home is the best time to install insulation in ceilings, floors, internal and external walls. Always choose the highest R-Value that your budget will allow).

If you or your builder or architect would like any more information on insulation and how it can help you get the most value out of your new home, visit: www.knaufinsulation.com.au