

CertainTeed Environmental Benefits of Weatherizing with Fiber Glass Q&A

The Responsible Choice

Must Weatherization Agencies use insulation with the highest recycled content?

No. The Weatherization funding program has no requirement, and requires no documentation, mandating the use of products with the highest recycled or recovered content.

The only federal regulation relating to product selection in the insulation category is based on the EPA's Recovered Materials Advisory Notice (RMAN). This statement recommends practical minimum recycled-content levels for purchasing building insulation of each product type and does not recommend one product type over another. These minimum levels are recommendations based on practical and responsible use of recycled content that is specific to each industry

and product type. Nearly all fiber glass and cellulose insulation products in the market exceed their respective levels. You are free to choose the insulation products that best serve and protect the homeowners you assist.



Did you know?

In its first year in place, a typical pound of fiber glass insulation saves 12 times as much energy than is used to produce it - then continues to save for the life of the structure.

Recycled material is an important factor, but there is more to consider with regards to environmental impact and responsible energy efficiency.

What are the environmental contributions of fiber glass and cellulose?

Fiber Glass Insulation



Fiber glass is made from sand (a rapidly and naturally renewing resource) and recycled glass. Manufacturers of fiber glass and wool insulations have diverted nearly

33 billion pounds of glass from America's solid waste stream since 1992 - recycling more material by weight than any other type of insulation used in

the building and construction sector. The percent of recycled material in fiber glass varies by the plant in which it is produced. Currently CertainTeed is using an average of 35% recycled glass and is constantly working to responsibly increase that percentage.



Most CertainTeed insulation products are GREENGUARD® Children & Schools Certified

by the GREENGUARD Environmental Institute – the most stringent standard for very low volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions, including

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formaldehyde. Not one cellulose product is GREENGUARD certified.

Fiber glass batt insulation is one of the rare re-usable forms of insulation. When buildings are renovated, batts and rolls can easily be removed and reused, protecting your investment for the life of the building.

Cellulose Insulation



Fiber glass insulation (top) is a more fire-resistant choice than cellulose (bottom).

Cellulose insulation is generally made up of about 80% recycled newspapers and 20% fire-retardant chemicals. On the surface, cellulose insulation may appear to

be the more environmentally acceptable insulation choice as it is made from shredded newspaper. However, it takes up to three times more cellulose material by weight than fiber glass to insulate a typical home. This means that for the same installed performance, cellulose creates more packaging waste and a greater demand on transportation and warehousing requirements throughout the supply chain. In addition, an average 1200 square foot attic insulated to R-38 with cellulose insulation would introduce about 300 pounds of fire retardant chemicals into the home.

Cellulose is not re-usable insulation. This means that when renovating, any cellulose must be carefully disposed of and replaced by new product.

InsulSafe®SP vs. Cellulose

**To insulate a 1000 sq. ft. area:
15 packages VS. 46 packages**

**Fiber Glass:
Less waste &
easy to transport**

1 package of CertainTeed InsulSafe®SP at R-30 covers 67.1 sq. ft.

It can take up to 3 packages of cellulose to cover 65.1 sq. ft. at R-30



CertainTeed Corporation was selected as a 2009 ENERGY STAR® Partner of the Year for Energy Management by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This prestigious award recognizes CertainTeed for accomplishments and leadership in reducing greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency. CertainTeed is the first-ever manufacturer of fiber glass insulation to win the award.

ASK ABOUT OUR OTHER CERTAINTEED® PRODUCTS AND SYSTEMS:

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INTERIOR: INSULATION • GYPSUM • CEILINGS