



2021 IRC Inspection Checklist

Insulation

This checklist is intended for use to prepare for an inspection. This is only a general list and is not intended to address all possible conditions. References are to the 2021 International Residential Code (IRC).

Please verify the following before calling for the insulation inspection.

Permits and Plans

- Permit and approved plans are on the site. (R106.3.1 and R105.7)
- Previous required inspections are signed off. (R109.4)
- Note corrections left which need to be addressed at this time.
- Plans have been reviewed for insulation requirements.

General

- The newly constructed area is dried in (roofing is complete and exterior moisture barriers are installed). (R701.2)
- Insulation is installed at roof, walls, and floors at the thickness indicated per prescriptive requirements unless superseded by the approved plans.
- Prescriptive Insulation Requirements for Residential Occupancies.

Ceilings ¹	Vaulted Ceilings	Wall Above Grade	Wall interior Below Grade	Wall exterior Below Grade	Floor	Slab on Grade ²
R-38	R-30	R-13	-	-	R-13	-

1. For single rafter or joist vaulted ceilings the insulation may be reduced to R-30

- Any insulation with facings, vapor barriers, or breathable papers, installed within floor/ceiling or roof/ceiling assemblies, walls, crawl spaces, under-stair voids, or attics, is required to have a

minimum flame spread rating of less than 25 and a smoke density not to exceed 450. (Exception: Limits don't apply when facing is installed in substantial contact with the unexposed surface of ceiling, floor, or wall.) Unfaced insulation is okay when concealed in areas previously mentioned.

- Insulation is securely installed in floors, walls, and ceilings not being fully enclosed (fireplaces, crawl space walls, etc.).
- Insulation materials must display the R-rating on a side visible for inspections.
- All recessed light fixtures are IC (insulation contact) rated or enclosed within a sealed assembly.

Access Hatches and Doors

- Access doors from conditioned spaces to unconditioned spaces are weather-stripped and insulated to a level equal to the insulation at surrounding surfaces. (N1102.2.4, R402.2.4)
- Wood framing, or equivalent retainer, is installed around the perimeter of the attic access to the height of surrounding insulation to prevent insulation from spilling and to maintain the R-value at the access.

Attic Insulation

- For air permeable insulations baffles are installed adjacent to soffit and eave vents.
- For open blown or poured attic insulation R-Value markers installed in the attic, showing the installed thickness and maximum settling thickness, and installed every 300 square feet and visible from the attic access. (R303.1.1.1)
- Loose fill insulation may be used in attic spaces where the slope does not exceed 3 in 12 and where there is at least 30" of clear distance from the top of the bottom chord of the truss or ceiling joist to the underside of the sheathing at the roof ridge.

Wall and Ceiling Insulation

- All faced insulation is stapled over the face of the framing member. Insulation may also be unfaced with visqueen vapor barrier installed over the whole wall, or unfaced with a PVA primer used to seal drywall.
- Air leakage barrier is installed to warm side of wall, floor, or ceiling. See Air Leakage section.

Floor Insulation

- The floor insulation is installed securely in substantial contact with the surface being insulated.
- Insulation supports are installed at a maximum of 24" on center.
- Insulation is not blocking the foundation vents. NOTE: The permanent baffle may be installed at 30 degrees from horizontal to divert airflow below the lower surface of insulation. Typically checked at final inspection.

Moisture Control

Vapor Retarder

- Vapor retarder is installed. See Wall and Ceiling Insulation Section. (IRC R504.2.2)
- Vapor retarder has a one perm dry cup rating or less (typically 4-mil polyethylene, kraft-faced material, or PVA). (R702.7.2)

Roof/Ceilings

- Faced batt insulation, where used as a vapor retarder, is face stapled. (Table R402.4.1.1)
- There is a minimum 1" vented air space above insulation. (IRC R806.3)

NOTE: Vapor retarder is not required when all of the insulation is installed between the roof membrane and roof deck. (IRC R806.5)

Seals and Weather-stripping

- Exterior joints around windows, door frames, openings between walls and foundations, openings at utility services through walls, floors, and roofs are sealed, caulked, gasketed, or weather-stripped to limit air leakage. (Table R402.4.1.1)
- Bottom plates and corners at insides of exterior walls have been caulked or sealed. (Table R402.4.1.1)
- All exterior doors, and doors serving as access to enclosed unheated areas, are weather-stripped. (R402.4, Table R402.4.1.1)

Spray Foam Insulation

- The intended use of a spray foam insulation must be called out on plans.
- Roof and ceiling insulation shall incorporate the use of markers no less than every 300 square feet. The markers shall indicate the depth of the insulation. (N1101.10.1.1, R303.1.1.1)
- Spray foam insulation shall not be applied directly to heated duct work or appliances.
- Heated duct work in contact with spray foam shall employ the use of heat shields and air gaps.
- An Insulation Installation Certificate provided by the installer must be located at the structure to be inspected. No passing inspection for spray foam insulation will be granted until the insulation certificate has been received. The certificate must indicate the following:
 - Product name, manufacturer, and UL number
 - Flame spread index not to exceed 25
 - Smoke developed index not to exceed 450
 - R-value per inch
 - Closed or open cell composition
 - Name of the product installer/contractor license number