



ENERGY STAR® Qualified Homes

THERMAL ENCLOSURE SYSTEM RATER CHECKLIST

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WHAT ARE GUIDE DETAILS?

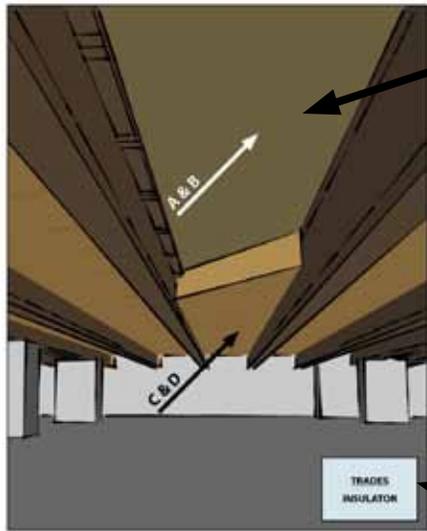
This Guide for Home Energy Raters presents Guide Details that serve as a visual reference for each of the line items in the Thermal Enclosure System Rater Checklist. The details are great tools for Rater education and will help Raters answer contractor and subcontractor questions. Together, the Thermal Enclosure System Rater Checklist and these Guide Details provide a comprehensive process for ensuring that building professionals meet all aspects of the ENERGY STAR V3 requirements. This page illustrates what Raters will see throughout this Guide on every odd page.

Each of the details is listed top left, followed by the actions the Rater should present to the applicable trade to successfully complete the detail.

This image illustrates the detail along with arrows to indicate steps necessary to complete it.

THERMAL ENCLOSURE SYSTEM RATER CHECKLIST	
3	FULLY-ALIGNED AIR BARRIERS
2	FLOORS

DETAIL 3.2.3 ¹ _{10, 11}
<p>Floor above unconditioned basement or vented crawlspace</p> <p>A. Install a continuous rigid air barrier or other supporting material to separate the exterior from the conditioned space.*</p> <p>B. Seal all seams, gaps, and holes of the air barrier with caulk or foam.</p> <p>C. Install insulation without misalignments, compressions, gaps, or voids in floors above the unconditioned basement or vented crawlspace.</p> <p>D. Install supports for insulation to remain in contact with the air barrier. Examples include metal support rods for batt insulation or nesting for blown insulation.</p> <p>* EPA recommends using a rigid air barrier, but it is not a requirement. † Footnotes located on following page.</p>



TRADES INSULATOR

First Page

This area presents applicable footnotes. Alternately, footnotes that require additional space will be located on a third sheet.

A list of applicable trades appears at the bottom to remind Raters which building professionals need to apply the detail.

WHAT ARE GUIDE DETAILS? (CONTINUED)

This page illustrates what Raters will see throughout this Guide on every even page. The photos show the detailed actions that Raters must verify are completed according to the ENERGY STAR V3 requirements.

Images of both proper and improper installation are included along with a corresponding thumbs up or thumbs down symbol.



Second Page

Note, some images of proper and improper installation are currently missing. In places where EPA has listed "picture needed," we are actively seeking examples from the residential construction community. Please send pictures to energystarhomes@energystar.gov.

A letter corresponding to the front page is provided to help the reader understand which step of the process the photos present.

When necessary, additional tips, codes, or other helpful information appears in the lower half of the page.

WHAT ARE GUIDE DETAILS? (CONTINUED)

This page illustrates what Raters will see for certain ENERGY STAR V3 requirements. It contains footnotes pertinent to the requirement that did not fit on the first page.

A list of footnotes pertinent to the specific requirement are listed here.

THERMAL ENCLOSURE SYSTEM RATER CHECKLIST		
3	FULLY-ALIGNED AIR BARRIERS	
2	FLOORS	

FOOTNOTES

7. For purposes of this checklist, an air barrier is defined as any durable solid material that blocks air flow between conditioned space and unconditioned spaces, including necessary sealing to block excessive air flow at edges and seams and adequate support to resist positive and negative pressures without displacement or damage. It is recommended, but does not require, rigid air barriers. Open-cell or closed-cell foam shall have a finished thickness of 5.5" or 1.5", respectively. To qualify as an air barrier unless the manufacturer indicates otherwise, flexible air barriers such as house wrap are used, they shall be fully sealed at all seams and edges and supported using fasteners with caps or heads of 1" diameter unless otherwise indicated by the manufacturer. Flexible air barriers shall not be made of kraft paper, paper-based products, or other materials that are easily torn. If polyethylene is used, its thickness shall be 6 mil.

8. Examples of supports necessary for permanent contact include slabs for batt insulation or rafters for blown-in insulation. Batts that completely fill a cavity enclosed on all six sides may be used to meet this requirement without the need for supports, even though some compression will occur due to the excess insulation, as long as the compressed value meets or exceeds the required insulation level. Specifically, the following batts may be used in un-vented floor cavities: R-19 batts at 24" centers, R-30 batts at 24" centers, R-38 batts at 24" centers, and R-48 batts at 24" centers. For example, in a floor that requires R-19 floor insulation, an R-48 batt may be used in a standard 24" floor cavity.

10. Fully aligned air barriers may be installed at the exterior surface of the floor cavity in all Climate Zones if the insulation is installed in contact with this exterior air barrier and the perimeter rim and band joists of the floor cavity are also sealed and insulated to comply with the fully aligned air barrier requirements for walls.

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CONTENTS

SECTION 1. High-Performance Fenestration

SECTION 2. Quality-Installed Insulation

SECTION 3. Fully-Aligned Air Barriers

SECTION 4. Reduced Thermal Bridging

SECTION 5. Air Sealing

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SECTION 1. HIGH-PERFORMANCE FENESTRATION

- 1.1. Prescriptive Path: Fenestration shall meet or exceed ENERGY STAR requirements**

- 1.2. Performance Path: Fenestration shall meet or exceed 2009 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) requirements**

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1 HIGH-PERFORMANCE FENESTRATION

1 PRESCRIPTIVE PATH

DETAIL 1.1 ²

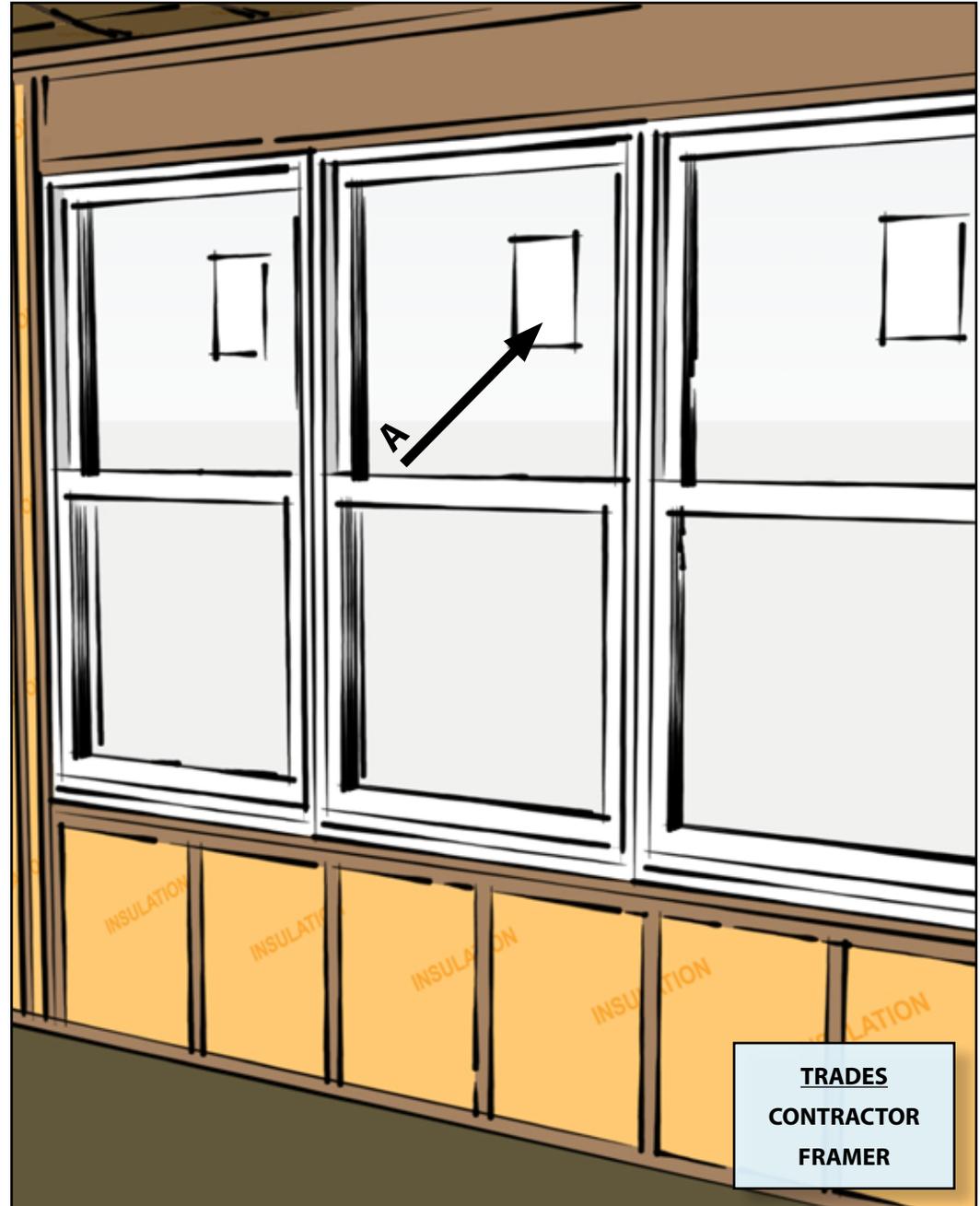
Prescriptive Path: Fenestration shall meet or exceed ENERGY STAR requirements

- A. Select windows, doors, and skylights to meet ENERGY STAR program requirements for windows, doors, and skylights.
- B. Note that the U-value and the Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC) for doors apply to the whole door, not just the glazing portion.

FOOTNOTES

2. For Prescriptive Path: All windows, doors, and skylights shall meet or exceed ENERGY STAR Program Requirements for Residential Windows, Doors, and Skylights – Version 5.0 as outlined at www.energystar.gov/windows. For Performance Path: All windows, doors, and skylights shall meet or exceed the component U-factor and SHGC requirements specified in the 2009 IECC – Table 402.1.1. If no NFRC rating is noted on the window or in product literature (e.g., for site-built fenestration), select the U-factor and SHGC value from tables 4 and 14, respectively, in 2005 ASHRAE Fundamentals, Chapter 31. Select the highest U-factor and SHGC value among the values listed for the known window characteristics (e.g., frame type, number of panes, glass color, and presence of low-e coating). Note that the U-factor requirement applies to all fenestration while the SHGC only applies to the glazed portion. The following exceptions apply:

- a. An area-weighted average of fenestration products shall be permitted to satisfy the U-factor requirements;
- b. An area-weighted average of fenestration products $\geq 50\%$ glazed shall be permitted to satisfy the SHGC requirements;
- c. 15 square feet of glazed fenestration per dwelling unit shall be exempt from the U-factor and SHGC requirements, and shall be excluded from area-weighted averages calculated using a) and b), above;
- d. One side-hinged opaque door assembly up to 24 square feet in area shall be exempt from the U-factor requirements and shall be excluded from area-weighted averages calculated using a) and b), above;
- e. Fenestration utilized as part of a passive solar design shall be exempt from the U-factor and SHGC requirements, and shall be excluded from area-weighted averages calculated using a) and b), above. Exempt windows shall be facing within 45 degrees of true south and directly coupled to thermal storage mass that has a heat capacity $> 20 \text{ btu/ft}^2\text{°xof}$ and provided in a ratio of at least 3 sq. ft. per sq. ft. of south facing fenestration. Generally, thermal mass materials will be at least 2" thick.



THERMAL ENCLOSURE SYSTEM RATER CHECKLIST



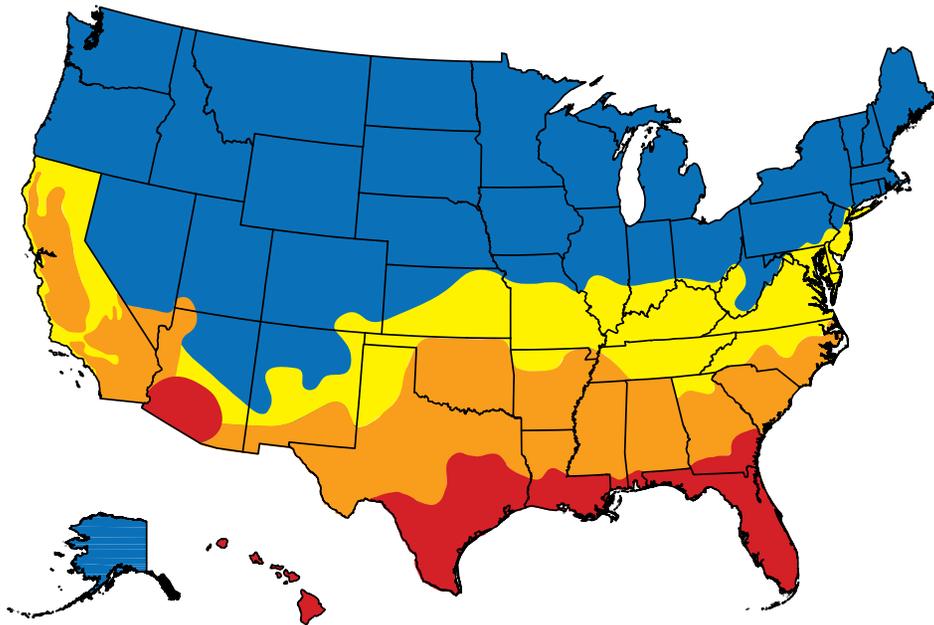
1 HIGH-PERFORMANCE FENESTRATION

1 PRESCRIPTIVE PATH



A. Window does not meet ENERGY STAR requirements.

Window meets ENERGY STAR requirements.



- Northern
- North-Central
- South-Central
- Southern

ENERGY STAR WINDOW SPECIFICATIONS

Climate Zone	U-Factor ¹	SHGC ²
Northern Prescriptive	≤0.30	ANY
Northern Equivalent Energy Performance	≤0.31	≥0.35
	≤0.32	≥0.40
North-Central	≤0.32	≤0.40
South-Central	≤0.35	≤0.30
Southern	≤0.60	≤0.27

ENERGY STAR SKYLIGHT SPECIFICATIONS

Climate Zone	U-Factor ¹	SHGC ²
Northern	≤0.55	ANY
North-Central	≤0.55	≤0.40
South-Central	≤0.57	≤0.30
Southern	≤0.70	≤0.30

ENERGY STAR DOOR SPECIFICATIONS

Climate Zone	U-Factor ¹	SHGC ²
Opaque	≤0.55	ANY
≤ 1/2 Lite	≤0.57	≤0.30
> 1/2 Lite	≤0.70	≤0.30

¹ Btu/h-ft²·°F

² Fraction of incident solar radiation

1 HIGH-PERFORMANCE FENESTRATION

2 PERFORMANCE PATH

DETAIL 1.2 ²

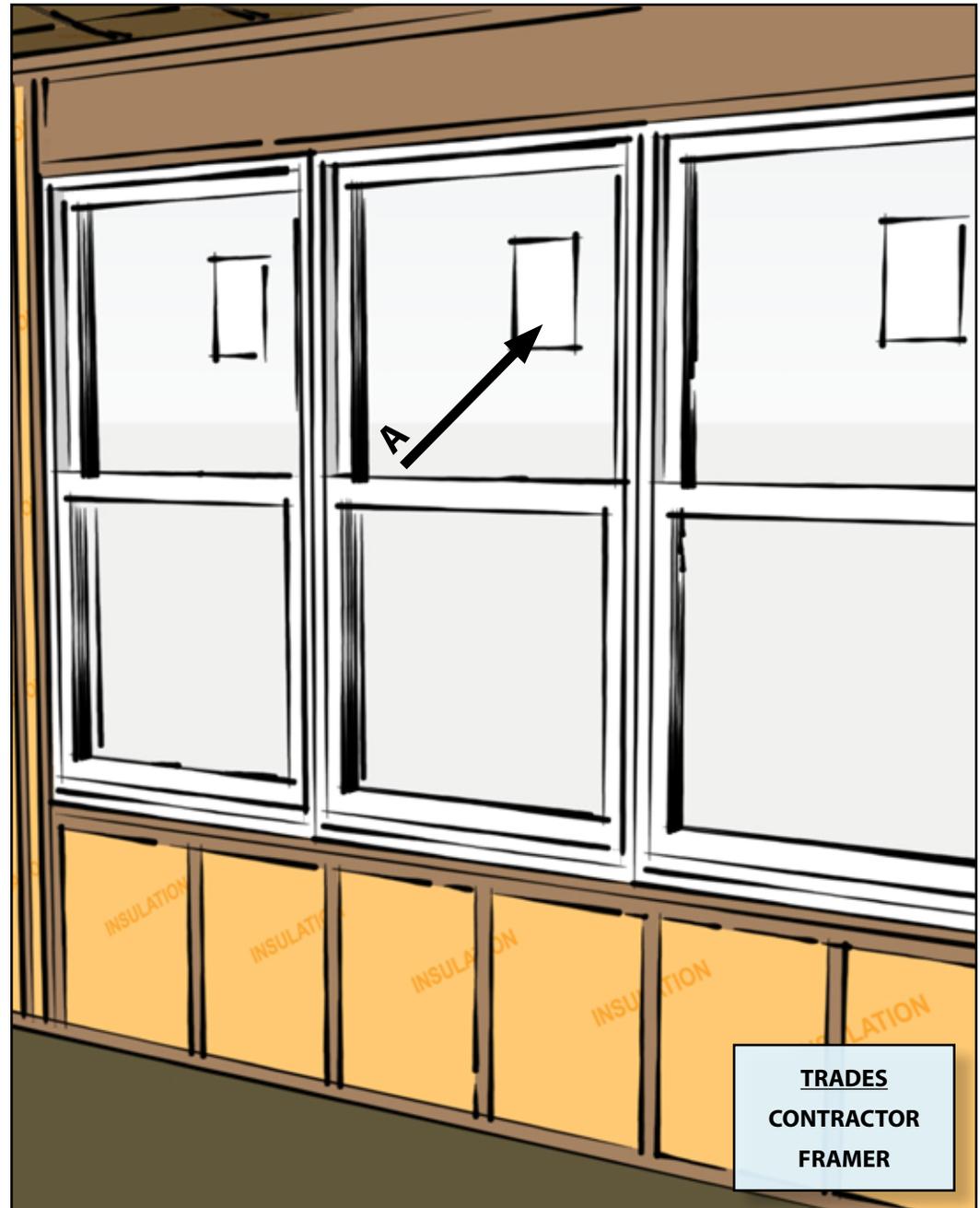
Performance Path: Fenestration shall meet or exceed 2009 IECC requirements

- A. Select windows, doors, and skylights to meet 2009 IECC standards for windows, doors, and skylights, except fenestration utilized as part of a passive solar design.

FOOTNOTES

2. For Prescriptive Path: All windows, doors, and skylights shall meet or exceed ENERGY STAR Program Requirements for Residential Windows, Doors, and Skylights – Version 5.0 as outlined at www.energystar.gov/windows. For Performance Path: All windows, doors, and skylights shall meet or exceed the component U-factor and SHGC requirements specified in the 2009 IECC – Table 402.1.1. If no NFRC rating is noted on the window or in product literature (e.g., for site-built fenestration), select the U-factor and SHGC value from tables 4 and 14, respectively, in 2005 ASHRAE Fundamentals, Chapter 31. Select the highest U-factor and SHGC value among the values listed for the known window characteristics (e.g., frame type, number of panes, glass color, and presence of low-e coating). Note that the U-factor requirement applies to all fenestration while the SHGC only applies to the glazed portion. The following exceptions apply:

- a. An area-weighted average of fenestration products shall be permitted to satisfy the U-factor requirements;
- b. An area-weighted average of fenestration products $\geq 50\%$ glazed shall be permitted to satisfy the SHGC requirements;
- c. 15 square feet of glazed fenestration per dwelling unit shall be exempt from the U-factor and SHGC requirements, and shall be excluded from area-weighted averages calculated using a) and b), above;
- d. One side-hinged opaque door assembly up to 24 square feet in area shall be exempt from the U-factor requirements and shall be excluded from area-weighted averages calculated using a) and b), above;
- e. Fenestration utilized as part of a passive solar design shall be exempt from the U-factor and SHGC requirements, and shall be excluded from area-weighted averages calculated using a) and b), above. Exempt windows shall be facing within 45 degrees of true south and directly coupled to thermal storage mass that has a heat capacity $> 20 \text{ btu/ft}^3 \times \text{oF}$ and provided in a ratio of at least 3 sq. ft. per sq. ft. of south facing fenestration. Generally, thermal mass materials will be at least 2" thick.



THERMAL ENCLOSURE SYSTEM RATER CHECKLIST



1 HIGH-PERFORMANCE FENESTRATION

2 PERFORMANCE PATH



A. Window does not meet 2009 IECC requirements.

Window meets 2009 IECC requirements.

2009 IECC WINDOW REQUIREMENTS

CLIMATE ZONE	U-FACTOR ^a	SHGC ^{a,c}
Zone 1	1.2	0.30
Zone 2	0.65 ^b	0.30
Zone 3	0.50 ^b	0.30
Zone 4	0.35	NR
Zone 5	0.35	NR
Zone 6	0.35	NR
Zone 7	0.35	NR

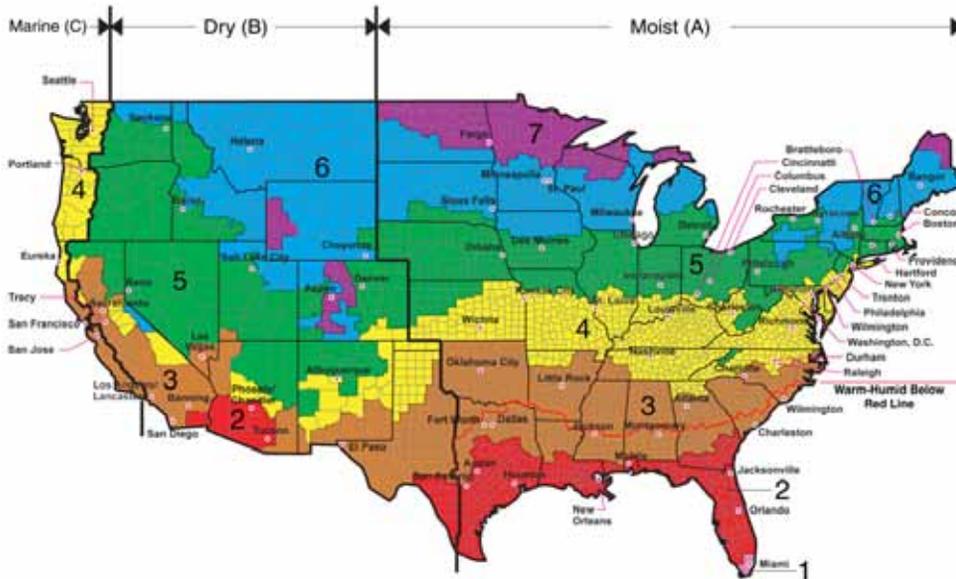
2009 IECC SKYLIGHT REQUIREMENTS

CLIMATE ZONE	U-FACTOR ^a	SHGC ^{a,c}
Zone 1	0.75	0.30
Zone 2	0.75	0.30
Zone 3	0.65	0.30
Zone 4	0.60	NR
Zone 5	0.60	NR
Zone 6	0.60	NR
Zone 7	0.60	NR

- a. U-factors and SHGC are maximums.
- b. For impact-rated fenestration complying with Section R301.2.1.2 of the International Residential Code or Section 1608.1.2 of the International Building Code, the maximum U-factor shall be 0.75 in Zone 2 and 0.65 in Zone 3.
- c. There are no SHGC requirements in the Marine Zone.

Interactive Map:

<http://energycode.pnl.gov/EnergyCodeReqs/>



All of Alaska in Zone 7 except for the following Boroughs in Zone 8: Bethel, Delillingham, Fairbanks, N. Star, Nome North Slope, Northwest Arctic, Southeast Fairbanks, Wade Hampton, and Yukon-Koyukuk.

Zone 1 includes: Hawaii, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands

Last Updated: 10/28/11

SECTION 2. QUALITY-INSTALLED INSULATION

- 2.1. Ceiling, wall, floor, and slab insulation levels shall meet or exceed 2009 IECC levels**

- 2.2. All ceiling, wall, floor, and slab insulation shall achieve RESNET-defined Grade I installation or, alternatively, Grade II for surfaces with insulated sheathing (see Checklist Item 4.4.1 for required insulation levels)**

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DETAIL 2.1 ^{3, 4, 5, †}

Ceiling, wall, floor, and slab insulation levels shall meet or exceed 2009 IECC levels

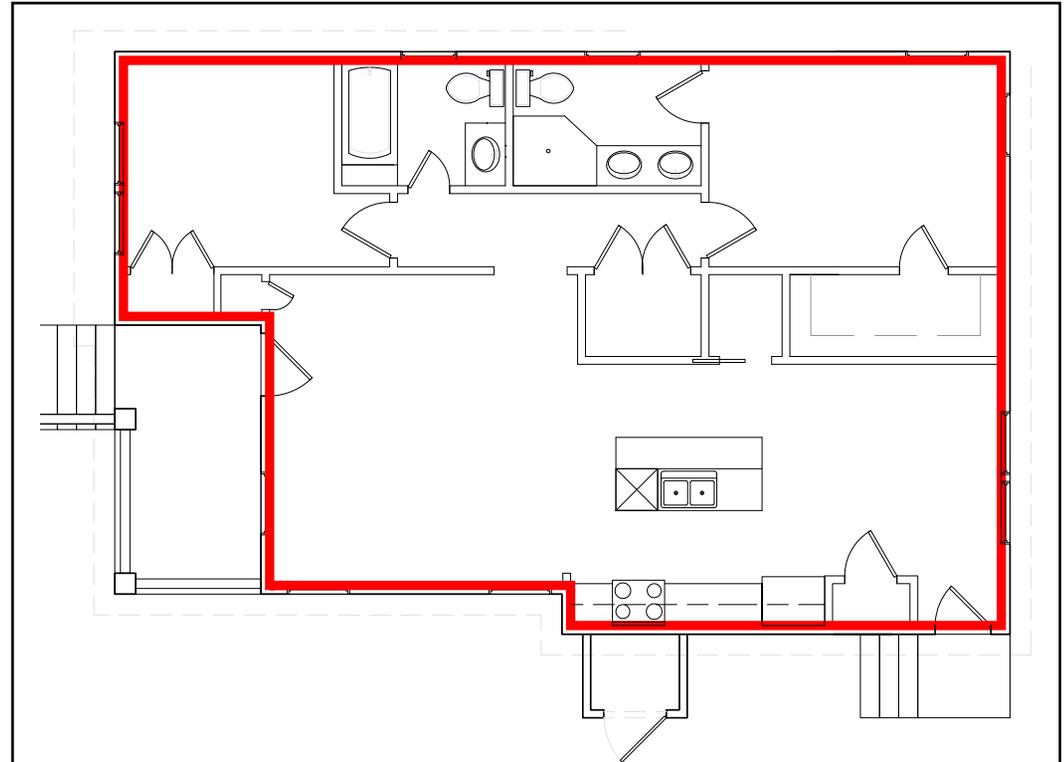
Install insulation in a home to meet or exceed the levels specified in the 2009 IECC and located on the back of this page.

A. Verify insulation meets standards by utilizing the guide below, looking at printed R-values on the insulation product or consulting the insulator.

† Footnotes located on page 49.

COMMON INSULATION MATERIALS

MATERIAL	APPROX. R-VALUE PER INCH
Cellulose	R-3.5
Fiberglass (Batts)	R-3.5
Fiberglass (Blown)	R-3
Polyurethane Rigid Board	R-6.8
EPS Insulated Concrete Forms (ICF)	R-4.25
XPS Insulated Concrete Forms (ICF)	R-5.0
EPS Structurally Insulated Panels (SIP)	R-3.1
XPS Structurally Insulated Panels (SIP)	R-4.3
Spray Foam (Closed Cell)	R-6
Spray Foam (Open Cell)	R-3.6



Knowing the exterior boundary of the house is critical for everyone involved in aligning air barriers with insulation. The Rater should first gather all plans, elevations and sections of the house. By drawing a boundary around the exterior barrier, the Rater can see the difficult areas to insulate and better communicate the required actions in those areas with the insulator and subcontractors.

**TRADES
INSULATOR**

THERMAL ENCLOSURE SYSTEM RATER CHECKLIST

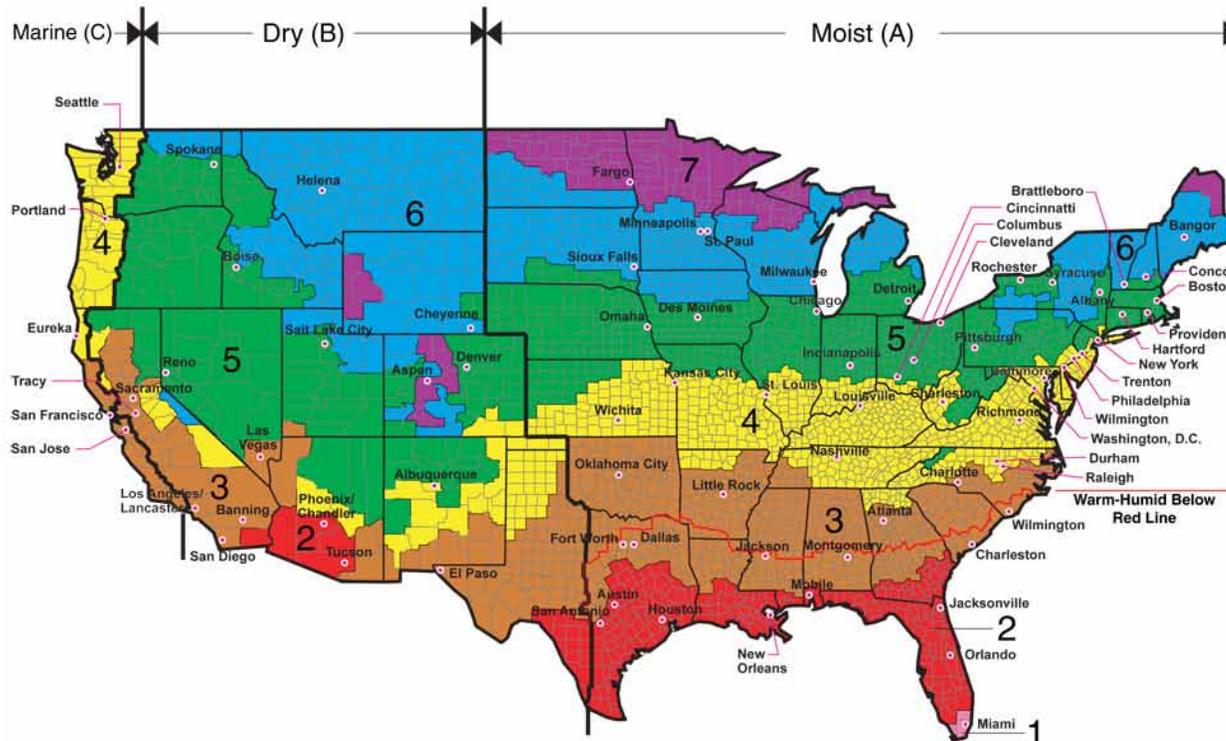
2 QUALITY-INSTALLED INSULATION

1 INSULATION LEVELS: MEET OR EXCEED 2009 IECC LEVELS



2009 IECC INSULATION REQUIREMENTS

CLIMATE ZONE	CEILING	FRAME WALL	MASS WALL ^c	FLOOR	BASEMENT WALL ^e	CRAWL SPACE WALL ^e
Zone 1	R-30	R-13	R-3	R-13	R-0	R-0
Zone 2	R-30	R-13	R-4	R-13	R-0	R-0
Zone 3	R-30	R-13	R-5	R-19	R-5/13 ^f	R-5/13
Zone 4	R-38	R-13	R-5	R-19	R-10/13	R-10/13
Zone 5	R-38	R-20 or R-13+R-5 ^b	R-13	R-30 ^d	R-10/13	R-10/13
Zone 6	R-49	R-20 or R-13+R-5 ^b	R-15	R-30 ^d	R-15/19	R-10/13
Zone 7	R-49	R-21	R-19	R-38 ^d	R-15/19	R-10/13



- a. R-Values are minimums.
- b. "R-13+R-5" means R-13 cavity insulation plus R-5 insulated sheathing. If structural sheathing covers 25 percent or less of the exterior, insulated sheathing is not required where structural sheathing is used. If structural sheathing covers more than 25 percent of the exterior, structural sheathing shall be supplemented with insulation sheathing of at least R-2.
- c. The second R-value applies when more than half of the insulation is on the interior of the mass wall.
- d. Sufficient insulation to fill the cavity, R-19 minimum.
- e. "R-15/19" means R-15 continuous insulation sheathing on the interior or exterior of the home or R-19 cavity insulation at the interior of the basement wall. "R-10/13" means R-10 continuous insulated sheathing or R-10 cavity insulation on the interior or exterior of the home or R-13 cavity insulation at the interior of the basement wall.
- f. Basement wall insulation is not required in warm-humid locations defined by Figure 301.1 and Table 301.1 of the IECC.

All of Alaska in Zone 7 except for the following Boroughs in Zone 8: Bethel, Dellingham, Fairbanks, N. Star, Nome North Slope, Northwest Arctic, Southeast Fairbanks, Wade Hampton, and Yukon-Koyukuk

Zone 1 includes: Hawaii, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands

Last Updated: 10/28/11

Interactive Map:

<http://energycode.pnl.gov/EnergyCodeReqs/>

FOOTNOTES

3. Insulation levels in a home shall meet or exceed the component insulation requirements in the 2009 IECC - Table 402.1.1. The following exceptions apply:

a. Steel-frame ceilings, walls, and floors shall meet the insulation requirements of the 2009 IECC – Table 402.2.5. In CZ 1 and 2, the continuous insulation requirements in this table shall be permitted to be reduced to R-3 for steel-frame wall assemblies with studs spaced at 24" on center. This exception shall not apply if the alternative calculations in d) are used;

b. For ceilings with attic spaces, R-30 shall satisfy the requirement for R-38 and R-38 shall satisfy the requirement for R-49 wherever the full height of uncompressed insulation at the lower R-value extends over the wall top plate at the eaves. This exemption shall not apply if the alternative calculations in d) are used;

c. For ceilings without attic spaces, R-30 shall satisfy the requirement for any required value above R-30 if the design of the roof/ceiling assembly does not provide sufficient space for the required insulation value. This exemption shall be limited to 500 square ft. or 20% of the total insulated ceiling area, whichever is less. This exemption shall not apply if the alternative calculations in d) are used;

d. An alternative equivalent U-factor or total UA calculation may also be used to demonstrate compliance, as follows:

i. An assembly with a U-factor equal or less than specified in 2009 IECC Table 402.1.3 complies.

ii. A total building thermal envelope UA that is less than or equal to the total UA resulting from the U-factors in Table 402.1.3 also complies. The insulation levels of all non-fenestration components (i.e., ceilings, walls, floors, and slabs) can be traded off using the UA approach under both the Prescriptive and the Performance Path. Note that fenestration products (i.e., windows, skylights, doors) shall not be included in this calculation. Also, note that while ceiling and slab insulation can be included in trade-off calculations, the R-value must meet or exceed the minimum values listed in Items 4.1 through 4.3 of the Checklist to provide an effective thermal break, regardless of the UA tradeoffs calculated. The UA calculation shall be done using a method consistent with the ASHRAE Handbook of Fundamentals and shall include the thermal bridging effects of

framing materials. The calculation for a steel-frame envelope assembly shall use the ASHRAE zone method or a method providing equivalent results, and not a series-parallel path calculation method.

4. Consistent with the 2009 IECC, slab edge insulation is only required for slab-on-grade floors with a floor surface less than 12 inches below grade. Slab insulation shall extend to the top of the slab to provide a complete thermal break. If the top edge of the insulation is installed between the exterior wall and the edge of the interior slab, it shall be permitted to be cut at a 45-degree angle away from the exterior wall.

5. Where an insulated wall separates a garage, patio, porch, or other unconditioned space from the conditioned space of the house, slab insulation shall also be installed at this interface to provide a thermal break between the conditioned and unconditioned slab. Where specific details cannot meet this requirement, partners shall provide the detail to EPA to request an exemption prior to the home's qualification. EPA will compile exempted details and work with industry to develop feasible details for use in future revisions to the program. A list of currently exempted details is available at: www.energystar.gov/slabedge.

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2 QUALITY-INSTALLED INSULATION

2 INSULATION: RESNET GRADE I OR GRADE II INSTALLATION

DETAIL 2.2

All ceiling, wall, floor, and slab insulation shall achieve RESNET-defined Grade I installation or, alternatively, Grade II for surfaces with insulated sheathing (see Checklist Item 4.4.1 for required insulation levels)

A. Install insulation without misalignments, compressions, gaps, or voids in all wall cavities along the thermal barrier of the house.

WHAT IS GRADE I INSTALLATION?

Grade I installation requires that the insulation material uniformly fill each cavity side-to-side and top-to-bottom, without substantial gaps, or voids around obstructions (such as blocking or bridging), and be split, installed, and/or fitted tightly around wiring and other services in the cavity.

To attain a rating of Grade I, wall insulation shall be enclosed on all six sides, and shall be in substantial contact with the sheathing material on at least one side (interior or exterior) of the cavity.

For faced batt insulation, Grade I can be designated for side-stapled tabs, provided the tabs are stapled neatly (no buckling), and provided the batt is only compressed at the edges of each cavity, to the depth of the tab itself, and provided the batt meets the other requirements of Grade I.

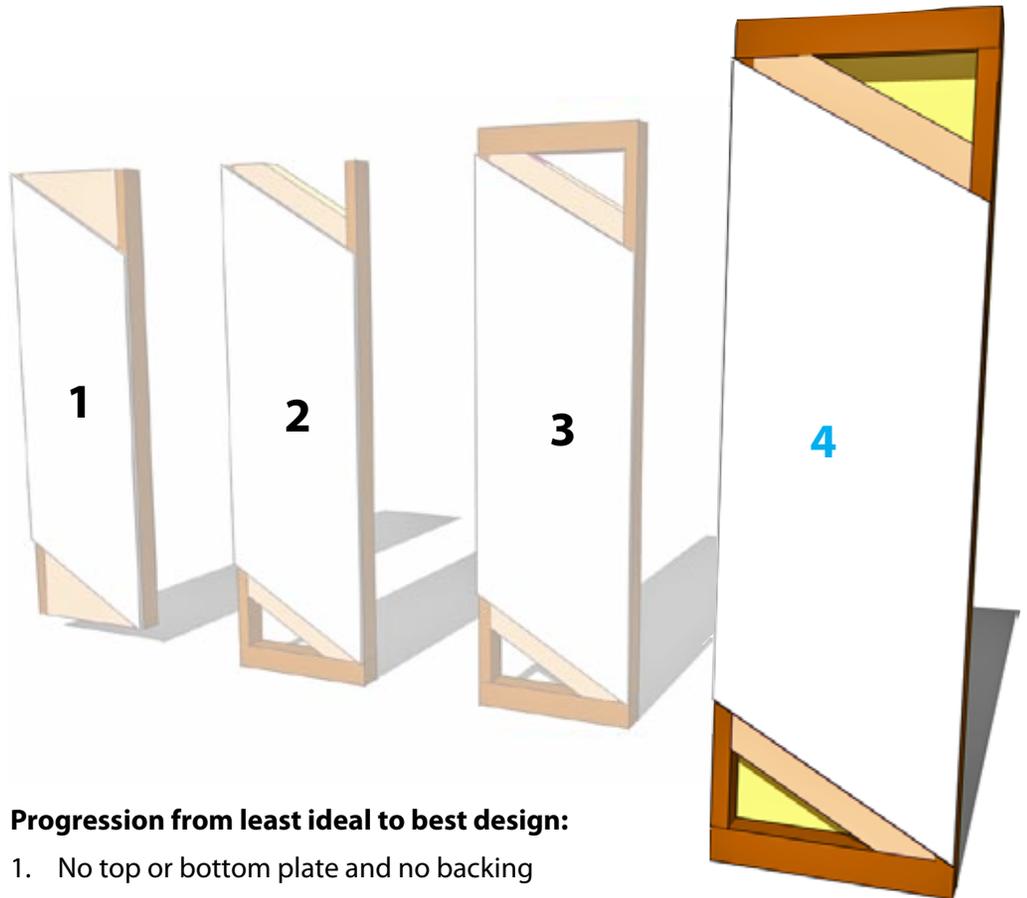
HOW DO RATERS INSPECT INSULATION?

Raters are required to inspect and probe in, around, or through the insulation and/ or vapor retarder in several places to see whether these requirements are met.

During inspection, insulation and vapor retarders may be cut or pulled away so Raters can see installation details. The Raters should replace or repair the vapor retarder and insulation as necessary. During inspection (typically before drywall is installed), if the exterior sheathing is visible from the building interior through gaps in the cavity insulation material, it is not considered a Grade I installation.

IDEAL INSTALLATION OF INSULATION

Properly installed insulation consists of insulation framed on all six sides, including top and bottom plates, rigid backing, and sheathing. The insulator should ensure that framing is correctly installed before the start of insulation.



Progression from least ideal to best design:

1. No top or bottom plate and no backing
2. Bottom plate, but no top plate or backing
3. Top and bottom plate, but no backing
4. **Insulation surrounded on six sides, including a top and bottom plate and backing**

TRADES
FRAMER
INSULATOR



A. Insulation has misalignment, compression, and gaps.



RESNET Grade I installation of batt insulation.



A. Compression and misalignment because insulation is not split around wires.



Batt was properly split around wires to achieve RESNET Grade I.



A. Compression and misalignment because insulation is not split around plumbing.



RESNET Grade I installation of blown insulation.



A. Spray foam installed with voids.



RESNET Grade I installation of spray foam insulation.

SECTION 3. FULLY-ALIGNED AIR BARRIERS

3.1. Walls:

- 3.1.1. Walls behind showers and tubs
- 3.1.2. Walls behind fireplaces
- 3.1.3. Attic knee walls
- 3.1.4. Skylight shaft walls
- 3.1.5. Wall adjoining porch roof
- 3.1.6. Staircase walls
- 3.1.7. Double walls
- 3.1.8. Garage rim/band joist adjoining conditioned space
- 3.1.9. All other exterior walls

3.2. Floors:

- 3.2.1. Floor above garage
- 3.2.2. Cantilevered floor
- 3.2.3. Floor above unconditioned basement or unconditioned crawlspace



3.3. Ceilings:

3.3.1. Dropped ceiling/soffit below unconditioned attic

3.3.2. All other ceilings

DETAIL 3.1.1 ^{6, 7, 10}

Walls behind showers and tubs

- A. Install insulation without misalignments, compressions, gaps, or voids in all exterior wall cavities behind all tubs and showers.
- B. Back with a rigid air barrier or other supporting material to prevent insulation from sagging and create a continuous thermal barrier.*
- C. Seal all seams, gaps, and holes of the air barrier with caulk or foam before tub/shower installation.

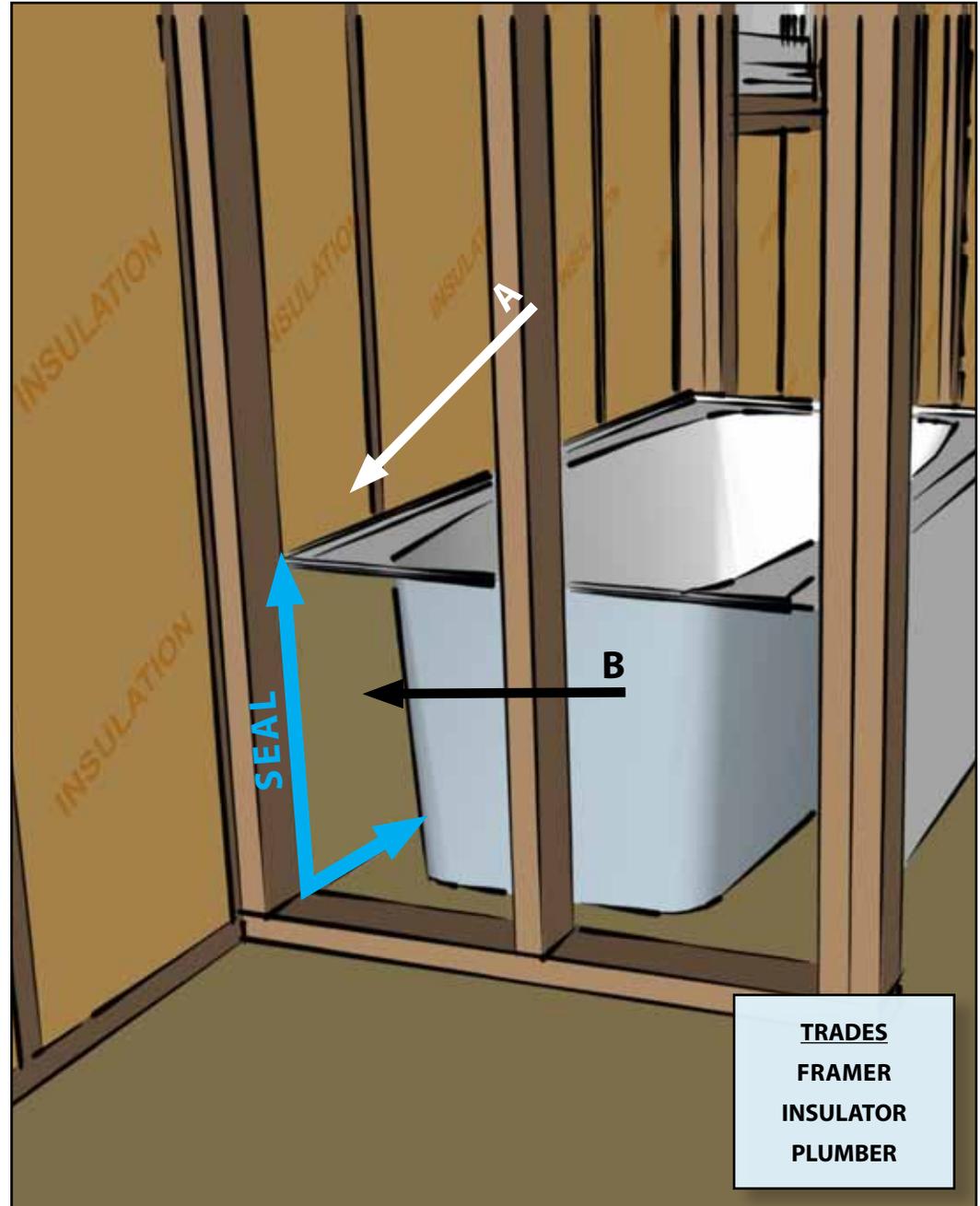
* EPA recommends using a rigid air barrier, but it is not a requirement.

FOOTNOTES

6. For purposes of this checklist, an air barrier is defined as any durable solid material that blocks air flow between conditioned space and unconditioned space, including necessary sealing to block excessive air flow at edges and seams and adequate support to resist positive and negative pressures without displacement or damage. EPA recommends, but does not require, rigid air barriers. Open-cell or closed-cell foam shall have a finished thickness $\geq 5.5''$ or $1.5''$, respectively, to qualify as an air barrier unless the manufacturer indicates otherwise. If flexible air barriers such as house wrap are used, they shall be fully sealed at all seams and edges and supported using fasteners with caps or heads $\geq 1''$ diameter unless otherwise indicated by the manufacturer. Flexible air barriers shall not be made of kraft paper, paper-based products, or other materials that are easily torn. If polyethylene is used, its thickness shall be ≥ 6 mil.

7. EPA highly recommends, but does not require, inclusion of an interior air barrier at band joists in Climate Zone 4 through 8.

10. All insulated vertical surfaces are considered walls (e.g., exterior walls, knee walls) and must meet the air barrier requirements for walls. All insulated ceiling surfaces, regardless of slope (e.g., cathedral ceilings, tray ceilings, conditioned attic roof decks, flat ceilings, sloped ceilings), must meet the requirements for ceilings.



TRADES
FRAMER
INSULATOR
PLUMBER

3 FULLY-ALIGNED AIR BARRIERS

1 WALLS



A. Insulation has compression and misalignment.



Insulation meets RESNET Grade I prior to air barrier installation.



B. No air barrier installed prior to tub installation.



Air barrier installed behind shower stall.



B. No air barrier installed prior to tub installation.



Air barrier installed behind the tub.



C. Air barrier not sealed.



Air barrier sealed.

3 FULLY-ALIGNED AIR BARRIERS

1 WALLS

DETAIL 3.1.2 ^{6, 7, 10}

Walls behind fireplaces

- A. Install insulation without misalignments, compressions, gaps, or voids in all exterior wall cavities behind all fireplaces.
- B. Back with a fire-proof rigid air barrier or other supporting material to create a continuous thermal barrier and prevent a fire hazard.*
- C. Seal all seams, gaps, and holes of the air barrier with fire-rated caulk or foam before fireplace installation.

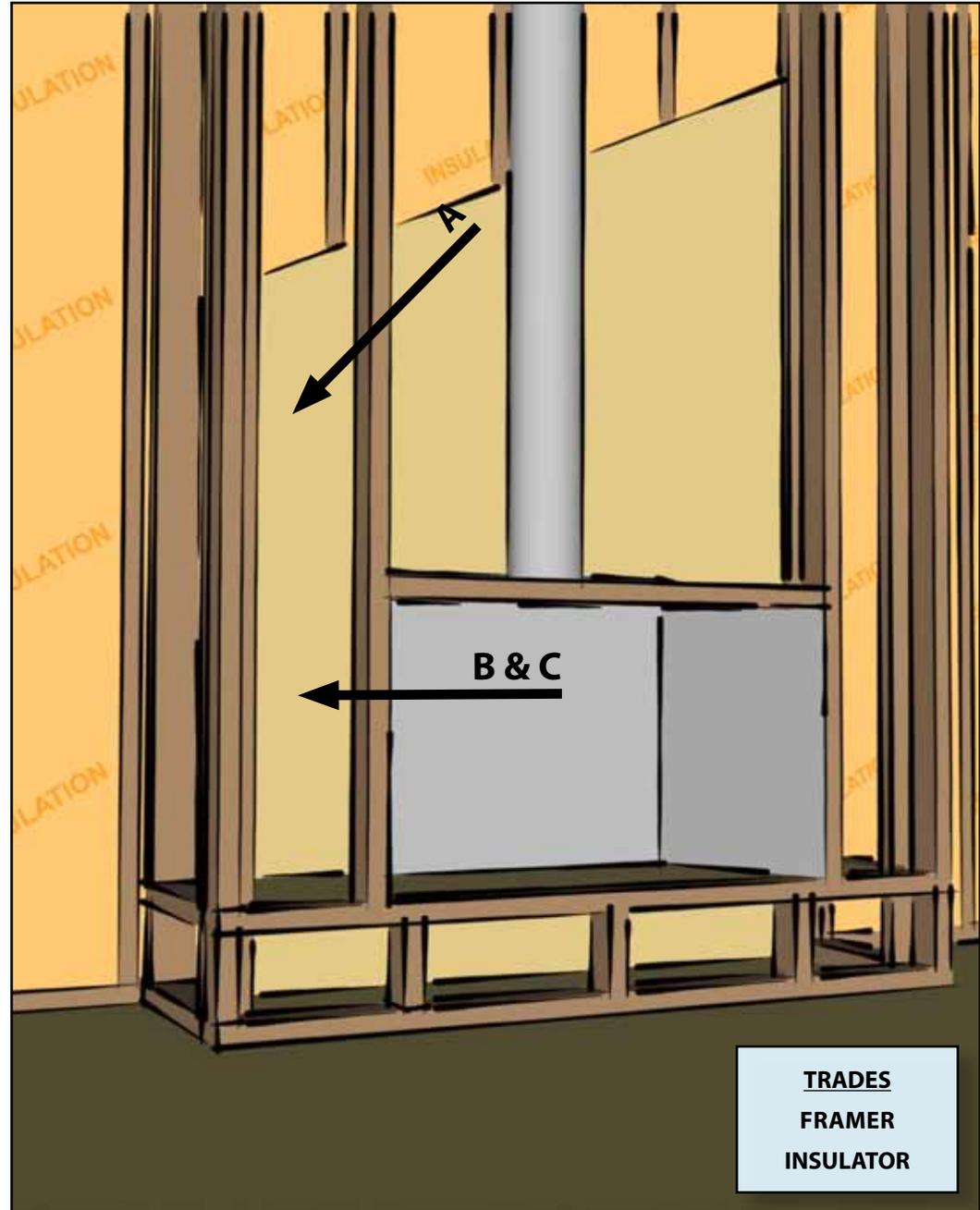
* EPA highly recommends using a rigid air barrier, but it is not a requirement.

FOOTNOTES

6. For purposes of this checklist, an air barrier is defined as any durable solid material that blocks air flow between conditioned space and unconditioned space, including necessary sealing to block excessive air flow at edges and seams and adequate support to resist positive and negative pressures without displacement or damage. EPA recommends, but does not require, rigid air barriers. Open-cell or closed-cell foam shall have a finished thickness $\geq 5.5''$ or $1.5''$, respectively, to qualify as an air barrier unless the manufacturer indicates otherwise. If flexible air barriers such as house wrap are used, they shall be fully sealed at all seams and edges and supported using fasteners with caps or heads $\geq 1''$ diameter unless otherwise indicated by the manufacturer. Flexible air barriers shall not be made of kraft paper, paper-based products, or other materials that are easily torn. If polyethylene is used, its thickness shall be ≥ 6 mil.

7. EPA highly recommends, but does not require, inclusion of an interior air barrier at band joists in Climate Zone 4 through 8.

10. All insulated vertical surfaces are considered walls (e.g., exterior walls, knee walls) and must meet the air barrier requirements for walls. All insulated ceiling surfaces, regardless of slope (e.g., cathedral ceilings, tray ceilings, conditioned attic roof decks, flat ceilings, sloped ceilings), must meet the requirements for ceilings.



TRADES
FRAMER
INSULATOR



A. No insulation installed behind fireplace.



Insulation installed behind fireplace prior to air barrier installation.



B. No rigid air barrier is installed behind fireplace.



Rigid air barrier is installed behind fireplace.



B. No rigid air barrier is installed behind fireplace.



Rigid air barrier is installed behind fireplace.



C. Vent sleeve not completely sealed.



Vent and air barrier sealed.

3 FULLY-ALIGNED AIR BARRIERS

1 WALLS

DETAIL 3.1.3 ^{6, 7, 10}

Attic knee walls

- A. Install a top and bottom plate or blocking at the top and bottom of all knee wall cavities.
- B. Back attic knee walls with a rigid air barrier or other supporting material to prevent insulation from sagging and create a continuous thermal barrier.*
- C. Seal all seams, gaps, and holes of the air barrier with caulk or foam.
- D. Install insulation without misalignments, compressions, gaps, or voids in all knee wall cavities.

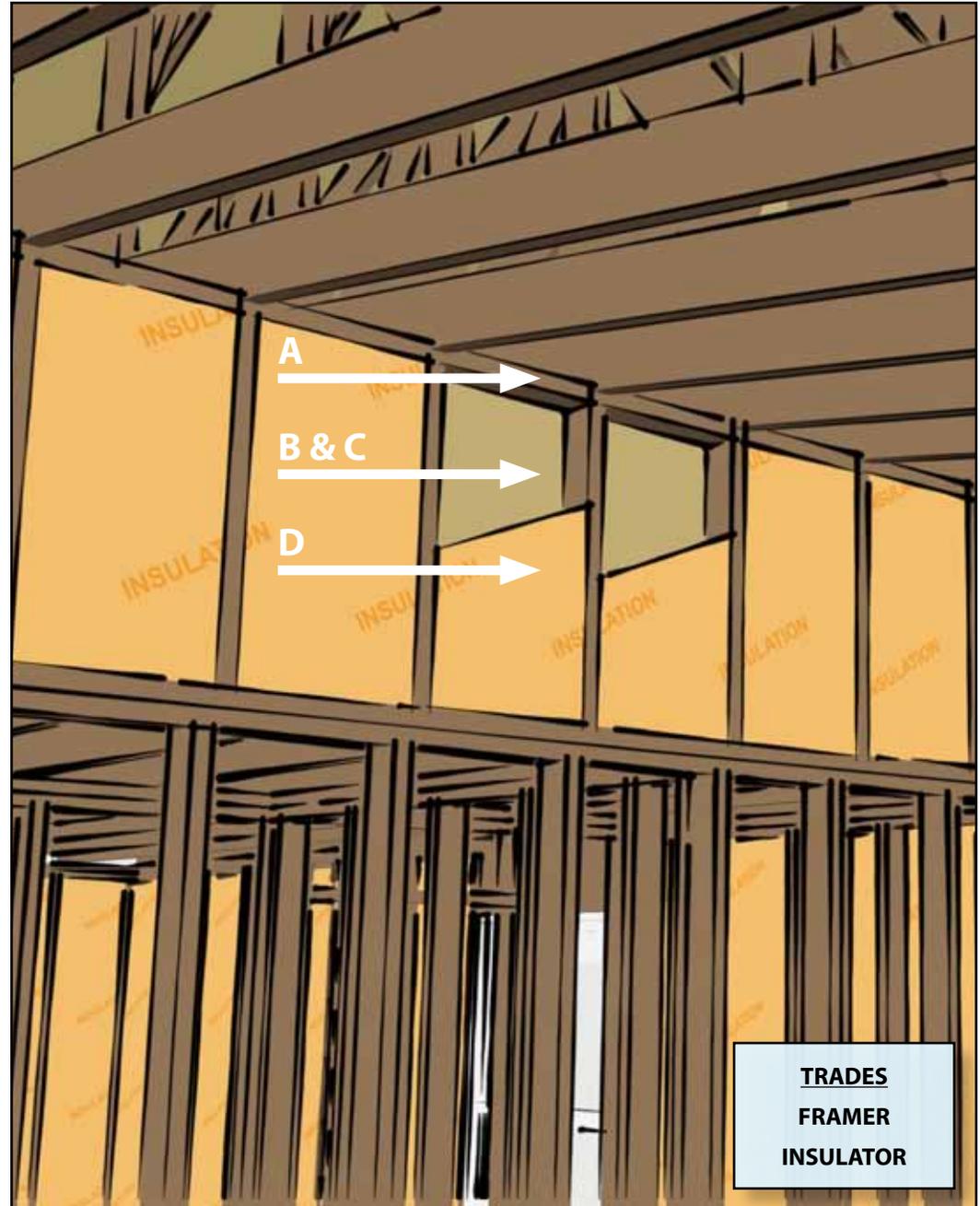
* EPA highly recommends using a rigid air barrier, but it is not a requirement.

FOOTNOTES

6. For purposes of this checklist, an air barrier is defined as any durable solid material that blocks air flow between conditioned space and unconditioned space, including necessary sealing to block excessive air flow at edges and seams and adequate support to resist positive and negative pressures without displacement or damage. EPA recommends, but does not require, rigid air barriers. Open-cell or closed-cell foam shall have a finished thickness $\geq 5.5"$ or $1.5"$, respectively, to qualify as an air barrier unless the manufacturer indicates otherwise. If flexible air barriers such as house wrap are used, they shall be fully sealed at all seams and edges and supported using fasteners with caps or heads $\geq 1"$ diameter unless otherwise indicated by the manufacturer. Flexible air barriers shall not be made of kraft paper, paper-based products, or other materials that are easily torn. If polyethylene is used, its thickness shall be ≥ 6 mil.

7. EPA highly recommends, but does not require, inclusion of an interior air barrier at band joists in Climate Zone 4 through 8.

10. All insulated vertical surfaces are considered walls (e.g., exterior walls, knee walls) and must meet the air barrier requirements for walls. All insulated ceiling surfaces, regardless of slope (e.g., cathedral ceilings, tray ceilings, conditioned attic roof decks, flat ceilings, sloped ceilings), must meet the requirements for ceilings.



TRADES
FRAMER
INSULATOR

3 FULLY-ALIGNED AIR BARRIERS

1 WALLS



A. No top plate installed.



Top and bottom plates installed prior to backing and insulation.



B. No rigid backing on knee wall.



Rigid backing installed prior to insulation.



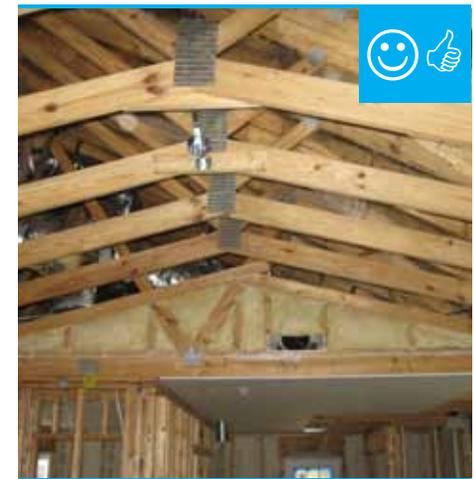
D. Backing not air sealed prior to insulation.



Backing air sealed prior to insulation.



E. Improperly installed insulation and no rigid backing.



Properly insulated, backed, and air-sealed knee wall.

3 FULLY-ALIGNED AIR BARRIERS

1 WALLS

DETAIL 3.1.4 ^{6, 7, 10}

Skylight shaft walls

- A. If non-rigid insulation is used, install a rigid air barrier to prevent insulation from sagging and create a continuous thermal barrier.*
- B. Seal all seams, gaps, and holes of the air barrier with caulk or foam.
- C. Install the insulation without any misalignments, compressions, gaps, or voids so that it acts as both the air barrier and thermal boundary. *Examples include foam board, spray foam or dense pack insulation.*

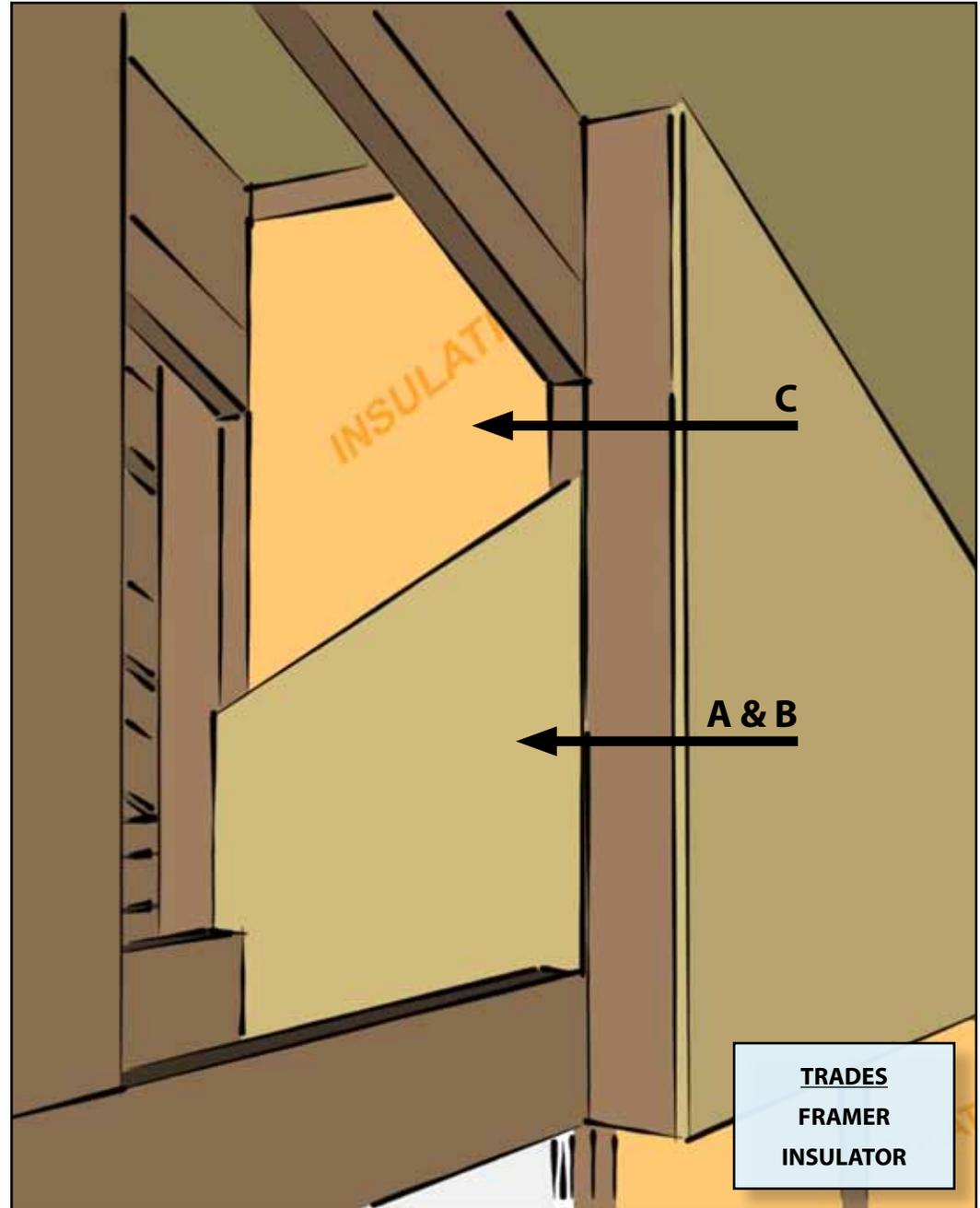
* EPA highly recommends using a rigid air barrier, but it is not a requirement.

FOOTNOTES

6. For purposes of this checklist, an air barrier is defined as any durable solid material that blocks air flow between conditioned space and unconditioned space, including necessary sealing to block excessive air flow at edges and seams and adequate support to resist positive and negative pressures without displacement or damage. EPA recommends, but does not require, rigid air barriers. Open-cell or closed-cell foam shall have a finished thickness $\geq 5.5"$ or $1.5"$, respectively, to qualify as an air barrier unless the manufacturer indicates otherwise. If flexible air barriers such as house wrap are used, they shall be fully sealed at all seams and edges and supported using fasteners with caps or heads $\geq 1"$ diameter unless otherwise indicated by the manufacturer. Flexible air barriers shall not be made of kraft paper, paper-based products, or other materials that are easily torn. If polyethylene is used, its thickness shall be ≥ 6 mil.

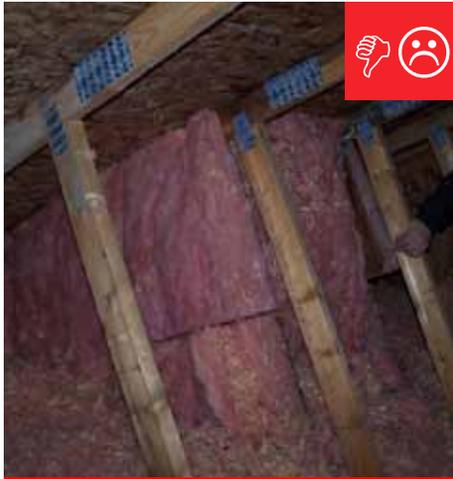
7. EPA highly recommends, but does not require, inclusion of an interior air barrier at band joists in Climate Zone 4 through 8.

10. All insulated vertical surfaces are considered walls (e.g., exterior walls, knee walls) and must meet the air barrier requirements for walls. All insulated ceiling surfaces, regardless of slope (e.g., cathedral ceilings, tray ceilings, conditioned attic roof decks, flat ceilings, sloped ceilings), must meet the requirements for ceilings.



3 FULLY-ALIGNED AIR BARRIERS

1 WALLS



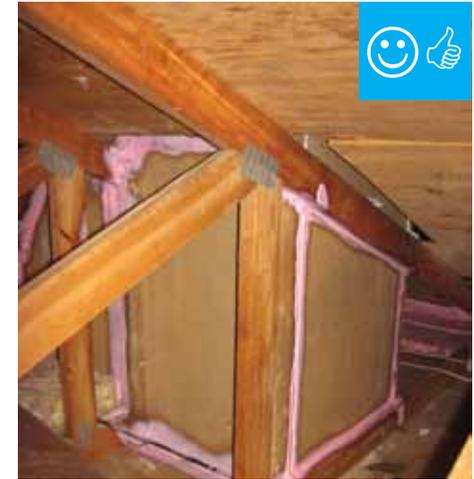
A. Rigid air barrier not installed to hold insulation in place.



Rigid air barrier is installed to hold insulation in place.



B. Rigid air barrier not properly sealed around skylight shaft.



Rigid air barrier properly sealed around skylight shaft.



C. Insulation is misaligned with air barrier.



C.



3 FULLY-ALIGNED AIR BARRIERS

1 WALLS

DETAIL 3.1.5 ^{6, 7, 10}

Wall adjoining porch roof

- A. Install a rigid air barrier or other supporting material to separate the porch attic from the conditioned space.*
- B. Seal all seams, gaps, and holes of the air barrier with caulk or foam before building wrap installation.

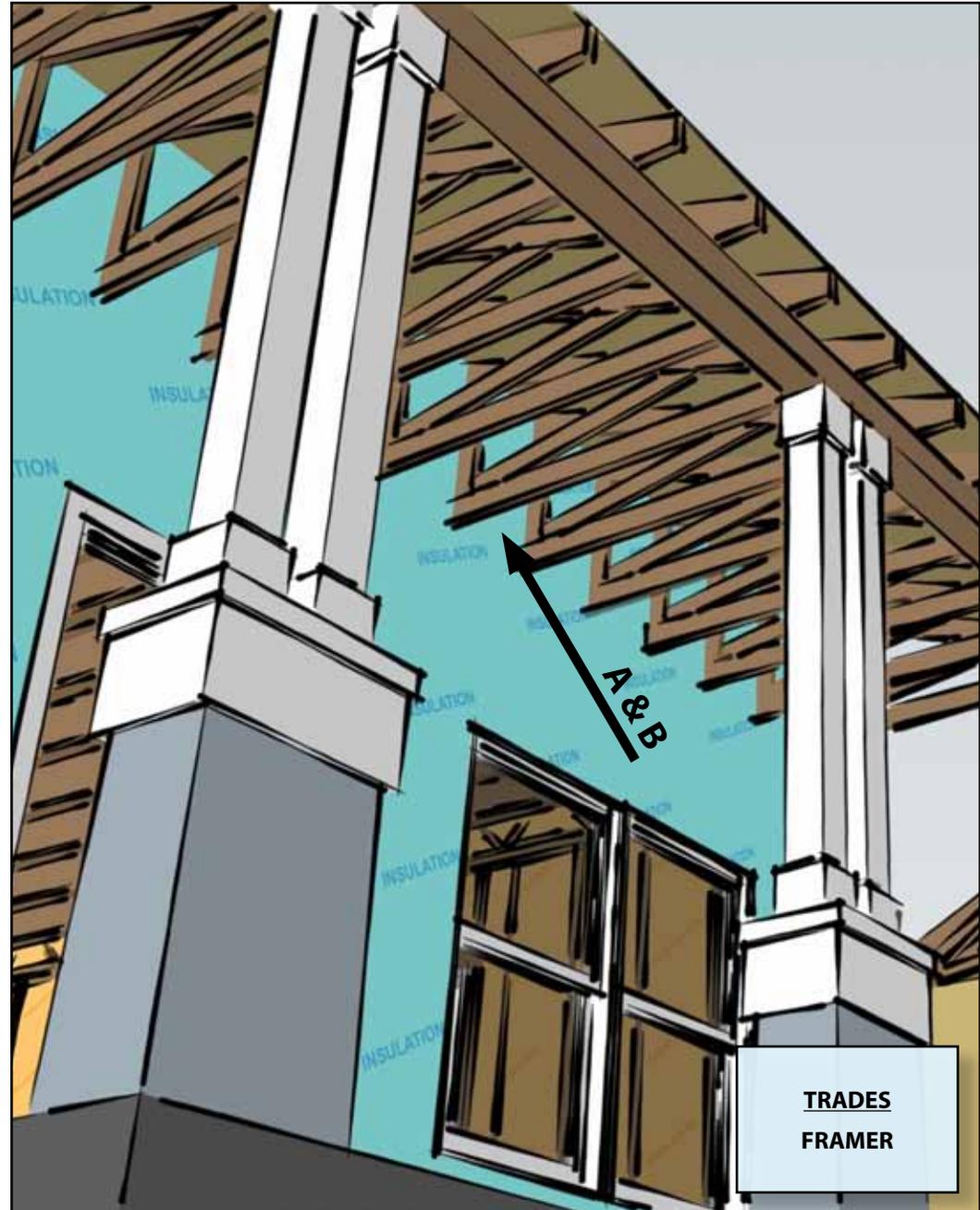
* EPA highly recommends using a rigid air barrier, but it is not a requirement.

FOOTNOTES

6. For purposes of this checklist, an air barrier is defined as any durable solid material that blocks air flow between conditioned space and unconditioned space, including necessary sealing to block excessive air flow at edges and seams and adequate support to resist positive and negative pressures without displacement or damage. EPA recommends, but does not require, rigid air barriers. Open-cell or closed-cell foam shall have a finished thickness $\geq 5.5''$ or $1.5''$, respectively, to qualify as an air barrier unless the manufacturer indicates otherwise. If flexible air barriers such as house wrap are used, they shall be fully sealed at all seams and edges and supported using fasteners with caps or heads $\geq 1''$ diameter unless otherwise indicated by the manufacturer. Flexible air barriers shall not be made of kraft paper, paper-based products, or other materials that are easily torn. If polyethylene is used, its thickness shall be ≥ 6 mil.

7. EPA highly recommends, but does not require, inclusion of an interior air barrier at band joists in Climate Zone 4 through 8.

10. All insulated vertical surfaces are considered walls (e.g., exterior walls, knee walls) and must meet the air barrier requirements for walls. All insulated ceiling surfaces, regardless of slope (e.g., cathedral ceilings, tray ceilings, conditioned attic roof decks, flat ceilings, sloped ceilings), must meet the requirements for ceilings.



TRADES
FRAMER

3 FULLY-ALIGNED AIR BARRIERS

1 WALLS



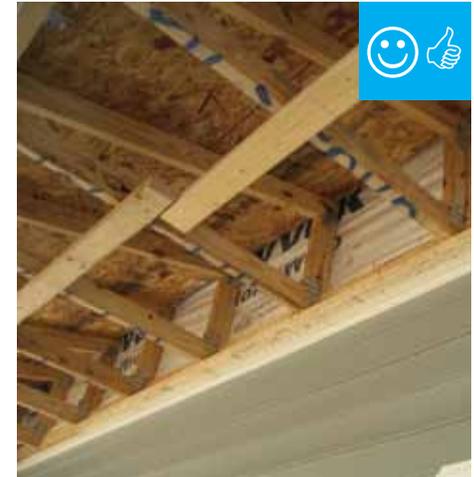
A. No air barrier between porch attic and conditioned space.



Air barrier is installed prior to porch attic framing.



A. No air barrier between porch attic and conditioned space.



Air barrier is installed prior to porch attic framing.



B. Air barrier not sealed between porch attic and conditioned space.



Air barrier and penetrations sealed between porch attic and conditioned space.



B. Air barrier not sealed between porch attic and conditioned space.



3 FULLY-ALIGNED AIR BARRIERS

1 WALLS

DETAIL 3.1.6 ^{6, 7, 10}

Staircase walls

- A. Install insulation without misalignments, compressions, gaps, or voids in all exterior wall cavities underneath all staircases.
- B. Install a rigid air barrier to prevent insulation from sagging and create a continuous thermal barrier.*
- C. Seal all seams, gaps, and holes of the air barrier with caulk or foam.

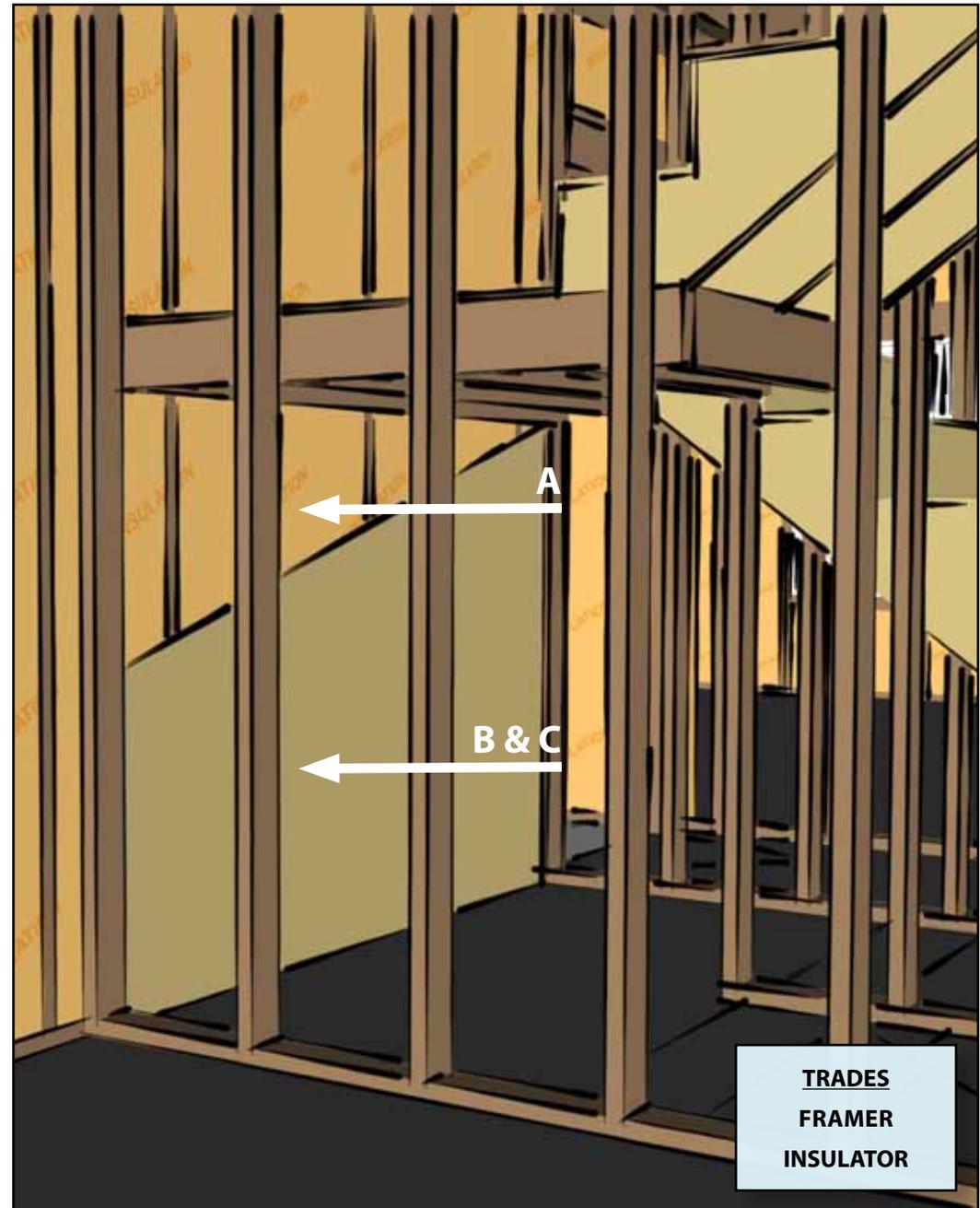
* EPA highly recommends using a rigid air barrier, but it is not a requirement.

FOOTNOTES

6. For purposes of this checklist, an air barrier is defined as any durable solid material that blocks air flow between conditioned space and unconditioned space, including necessary sealing to block excessive air flow at edges and seams and adequate support to resist positive and negative pressures without displacement or damage. EPA recommends, but does not require, rigid air barriers. Open-cell or closed-cell foam shall have a finished thickness $\geq 5.5"$ or $1.5"$, respectively, to qualify as an air barrier unless the manufacturer indicates otherwise. If flexible air barriers such as house wrap are used, they shall be fully sealed at all seams and edges and supported using fasteners with caps or heads $\geq 1"$ diameter unless otherwise indicated by the manufacturer. Flexible air barriers shall not be made of kraft paper, paper-based products, or other materials that are easily torn. If polyethylene is used, its thickness shall be ≥ 6 mil.

7. EPA highly recommends, but does not require, inclusion of an interior air barrier at band joists in Climate Zone 4 through 8.

10. All insulated vertical surfaces are considered walls (e.g., exterior walls, knee walls) and must meet the air barrier requirements for walls. All insulated ceiling surfaces, regardless of slope (e.g., cathedral ceilings, tray ceilings, conditioned attic roof decks, flat ceilings, sloped ceilings), must meet the requirements for ceilings.



TRADES
FRAMER
INSULATOR

3 FULLY-ALIGNED AIR BARRIERS

1 WALLS

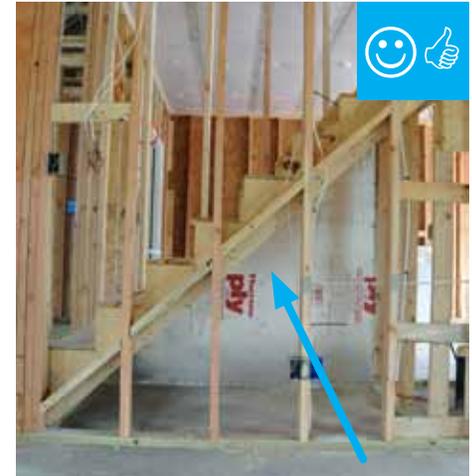

**BAD PIC OF IMPROPERLY
INSTALLED INSULATION
NEEDED**



A. Insulation properly installed before air barrier.



B. No air barrier installed under staircase.



B. Air barrier installed under staircase.



B. Air barrier installed under staircase.



C. Air barrier not sealed.

Picture taken from garage looking into house.


**GOOD PIC OF PROPERLY
SEALED STAIRCASE
NEEDED**

3 FULLY-ALIGNED AIR BARRIERS

1 WALLS

DETAIL 3.1.7 ^{6, 7, 10}

Double walls

- A. Install a continuous air barrier on the exterior of the interior wall.
- B. Seal all seams, gaps, and holes of the air barrier with caulk or foam.
- C. Install insulation without misalignments, compressions, gaps, or voids.

OR

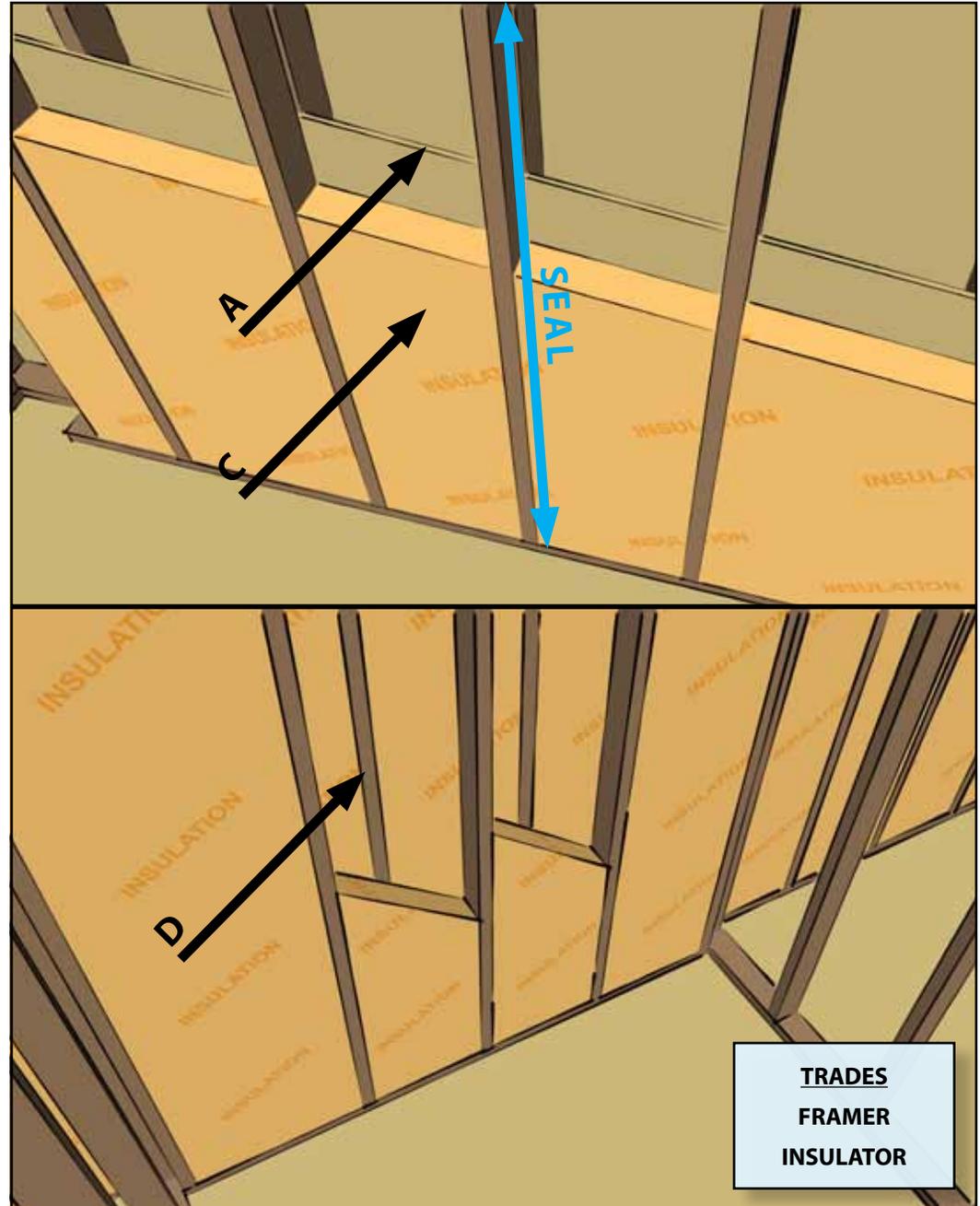
- D. Completely fill entire cavity of the double wall assembly without misalignments, compressions, gaps, or voids.

FOOTNOTES

6. For purposes of this checklist, an air barrier is defined as any durable solid material that blocks air flow between conditioned space and unconditioned space, including necessary sealing to block excessive air flow at edges and seams and adequate support to resist positive and negative pressures without displacement or damage. EPA recommends, but does not require, rigid air barriers. Open-cell or closed-cell foam shall have a finished thickness $\geq 5.5''$ or $1.5''$, respectively, to qualify as an air barrier unless the manufacturer indicates otherwise. If flexible air barriers such as house wrap are used, they shall be fully sealed at all seams and edges and supported using fasteners with caps or heads $\geq 1''$ diameter unless otherwise indicated by the manufacturer. Flexible air barriers shall not be made of kraft paper, paper-based products, or other materials that are easily torn. If polyethylene is used, its thickness shall be ≥ 6 mil.

7. EPA highly recommends, but does not require, inclusion of an interior air barrier at band joists in Climate Zone 4 through 8.

10. All insulated vertical surfaces are considered walls (e.g., exterior walls, knee walls) and must meet the air barrier requirements for walls. All insulated ceiling surfaces, regardless of slope (e.g., cathedral ceilings, tray ceilings, conditioned attic roof decks, flat ceilings, sloped ceilings), must meet the requirements for ceilings.



TRADES
FRAMER
INSULATOR

3 FULLY-ALIGNED AIR BARRIERS

1 WALLS



A. No air barrier installed between double-wall framing.



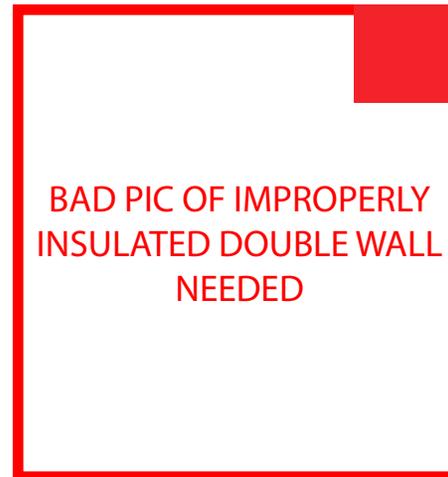
Air barrier is installed between double-wall framing.



B.



C. Insulation does not fill entire cavity nor is there an air barrier present between the double wall.



C.



3 FULLY-ALIGNED AIR BARRIERS

1 WALLS

DETAIL 3.1.8 ^{6, 7, 10}

Garage rim/band joist adjoining conditioned space

- A. Install a continuous rigid air barrier or other supporting material to separate the garage from the conditioned space.*
- B. Seal all seams, gaps, and holes of the air barrier with caulk or foam and complete before installing the insulation.
- C. Install insulation without misalignments, compressions, gaps, or voids in all band joist cavities.

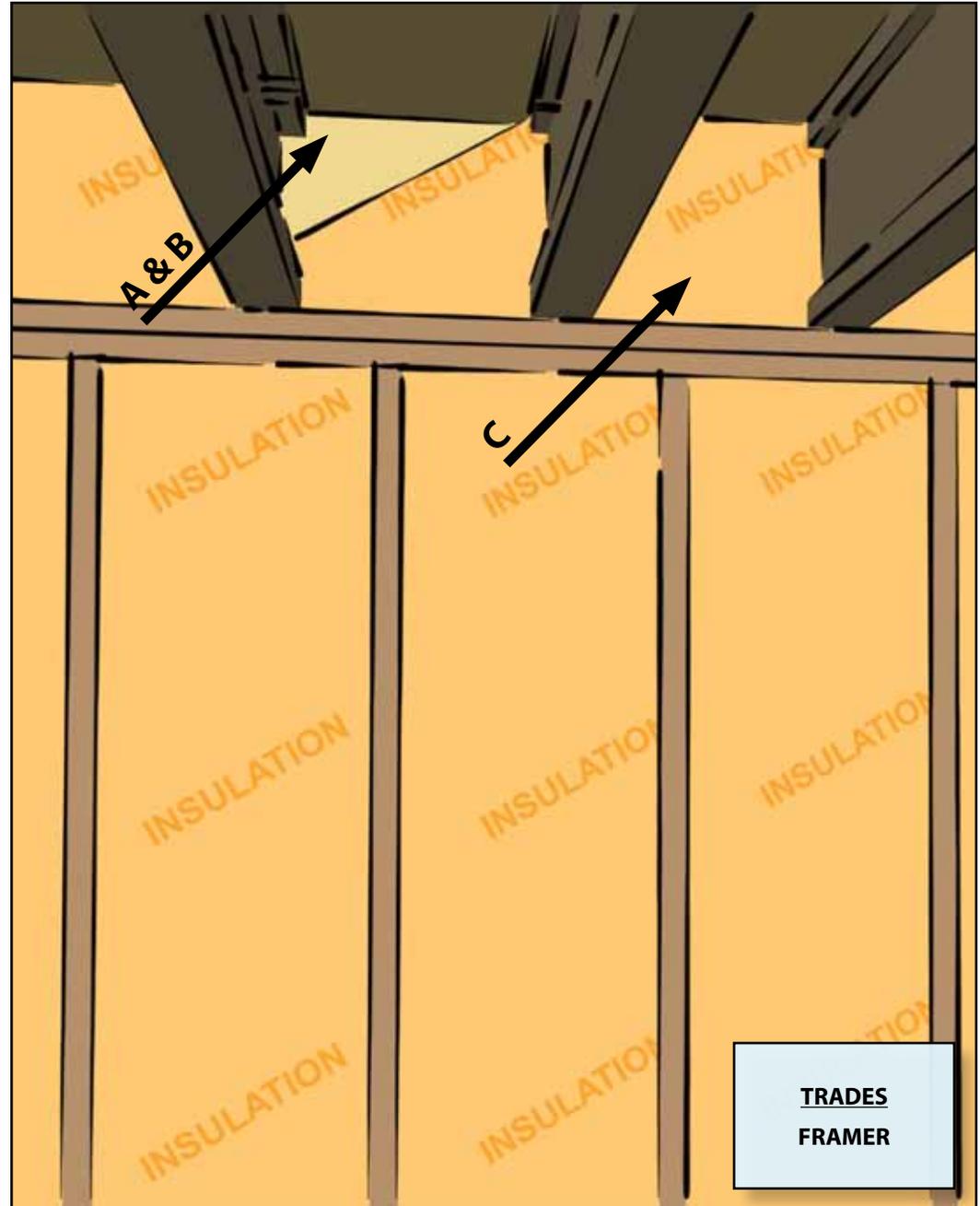
* EPA highly recommends using a rigid air barrier, but it is not a requirement.

FOOTNOTES

6. For purposes of this checklist, an air barrier is defined as any durable solid material that blocks air flow between conditioned space and unconditioned space, including necessary sealing to block excessive air flow at edges and seams and adequate support to resist positive and negative pressures without displacement or damage. EPA recommends, but does not require, rigid air barriers. Open-cell or closed-cell foam shall have a finished thickness $\geq 5.5"$ or $1.5"$, respectively, to qualify as an air barrier unless the manufacturer indicates otherwise. If flexible air barriers such as house wrap are used, they shall be fully sealed at all seams and edges and supported using fasteners with caps or heads $\geq 1"$ diameter unless otherwise indicated by the manufacturer. Flexible air barriers shall not be made of kraft paper, paper-based products, or other materials that are easily torn. If polyethylene is used, its thickness shall be ≥ 6 mil.

7. EPA highly recommends, but does not require, inclusion of an interior air barrier at band joists in Climate Zone 4 through 8.

10. All insulated vertical surfaces are considered walls (e.g., exterior walls, knee walls) and must meet the air barrier requirements for walls. All insulated ceiling surfaces, regardless of slope (e.g., cathedral ceilings, tray ceilings, conditioned attic roof decks, flat ceilings, sloped ceilings), must meet the requirements for ceilings.





A. No air barrier is present between garage and floor system.



Air barrier is present between garage and floor system.



A. No air barrier is present between garage and conditioned space.



Air barrier is present between garage and conditioned space.



B. Band not properly sealed.



Penetrations through band properly sealed.



C. Gaps without insulation and not properly sealed.



Band is properly insulated and sealed.

3 FULLY-ALIGNED AIR BARRIERS

1 WALLS

DETAIL 3.1.9 ^{6, 7, 10}

All other exterior walls

- A. Install a continuous rigid air barrier or other supporting material to separate the exterior from the conditioned space.*
- B. Seal all seams, gaps, and holes of the air barrier with caulk or foam and complete before installing the insulation.
- C. Install insulation without misalignments, compressions, gaps, or voids in all exterior walls.

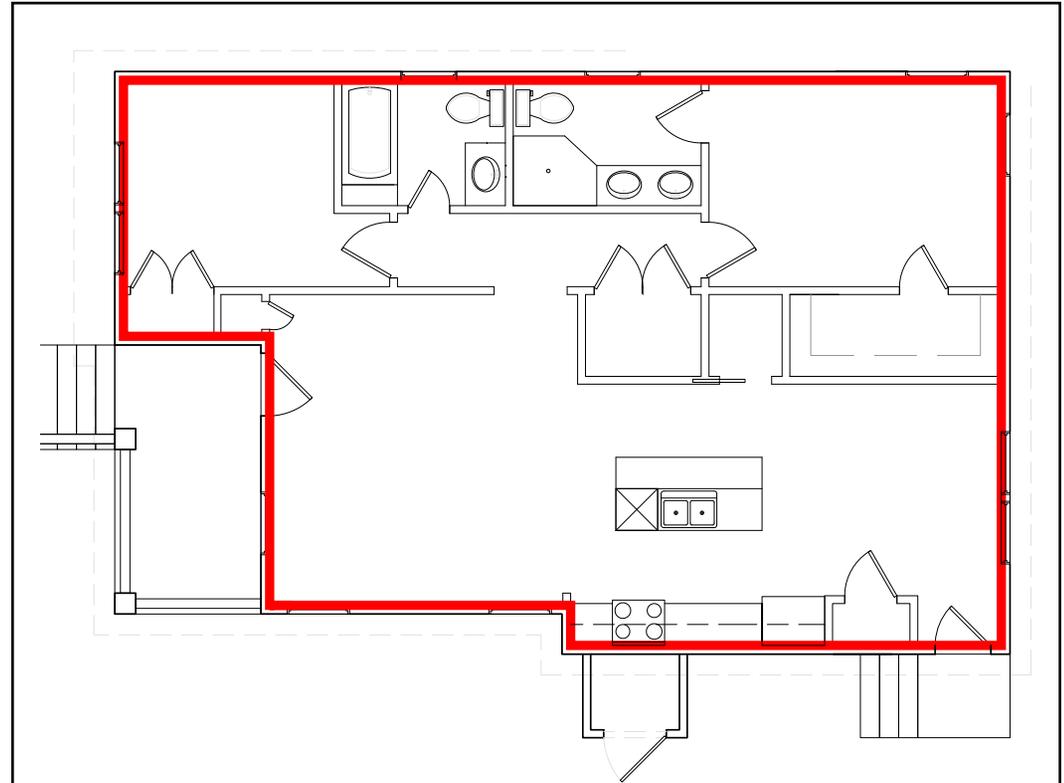
* EPA highly recommends using a rigid air barrier, but it is not a requirement.

FOOTNOTES

6. For purposes of this checklist, an air barrier is defined as any durable solid material that blocks air flow between conditioned space and unconditioned space, including necessary sealing to block excessive air flow at edges and seams and adequate support to resist positive and negative pressures without displacement or damage. EPA recommends, but does not require, rigid air barriers. Open-cell or closed-cell foam shall have a finished thickness $\geq 5.5"$ or $1.5"$, respectively, to qualify as an air barrier unless the manufacturer indicates otherwise. If flexible air barriers such as house wrap are used, they shall be fully sealed at all seams and edges and supported using fasteners with caps or heads $\geq 1"$ diameter unless otherwise indicated by the manufacturer. Flexible air barriers shall not be made of kraft paper, paper-based products, or other materials that are easily torn. If polyethylene is used, its thickness shall be ≥ 6 mil.

7. EPA highly recommends, but does not require, inclusion of an interior air barrier at band joists in Climate Zone 4 through 8.

10. All insulated vertical surfaces are considered walls (e.g., exterior walls, knee walls) and must meet the air barrier requirements for walls. All insulated ceiling surfaces, regardless of slope (e.g., cathedral ceilings, tray ceilings, conditioned attic roof decks, flat ceilings, sloped ceilings), must meet the requirements for ceilings.



Knowing the exterior boundary of the house is critical for everyone involved in aligning air barriers with insulation. The Rater should first gather all plans, elevations and sections of the house. By drawing a boundary around the exterior barrier, the Rater can see the difficult areas to insulate and better communicate the required actions in those areas with the insulator and subcontractors.

TRADES
FRAMER
INSULATOR

3 FULLY-ALIGNED AIR BARRIERS

1 WALLS



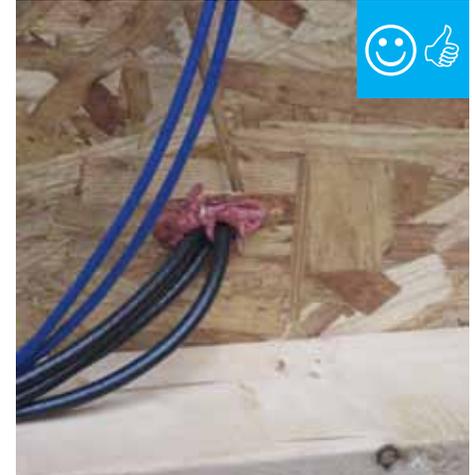
A. Air barrier is not continuous.



Continuous air barrier



B. Electrical box not air sealed.



Wiring penetrations properly air sealed.



B. Air barrier is air sealed.



Air barrier is air sealed.



C. Insulation is misaligned.



Insulation is properly installed.

3 FULLY-ALIGNED AIR BARRIERS

2 FLOORS

DETAIL 3.2.1 ^{6, 8, 9}

Floor above garage

- A. Install a continuous rigid air barrier or other supporting material to separate the garage from the conditioned space.*
- B. Seal all seams, gaps, and holes of the air barrier with caulk or foam and complete before insulation installation.
- C. Install insulation without misalignments, compressions, gaps, or voids in all floors above garage.
- D. Install supports for insulation to remain in contact with the air barrier. *Examples of supports include staves for batt insulation or netting for blown-in insulation.*

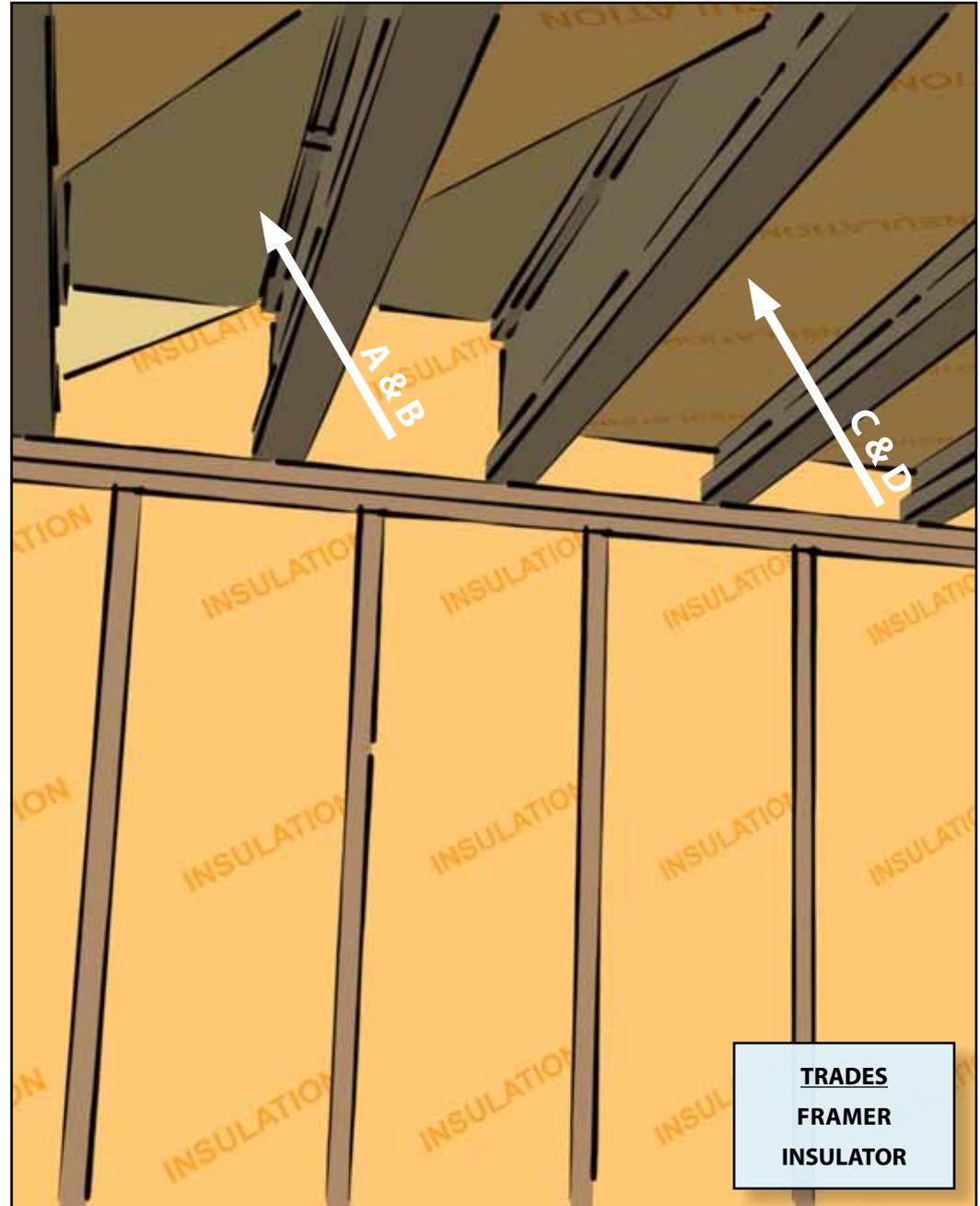
* EPA highly recommends using a rigid air barrier, but it is not a requirement.

FOOTNOTES

6. For purposes of this checklist, an air barrier is defined as any durable solid material that blocks air flow between conditioned space and unconditioned space, including necessary sealing to block excessive air flow at edges and seams and adequate support to resist positive and negative pressures without displacement or damage. EPA recommends, but does not require, rigid air barriers. Open-cell or closed-cell foam shall have a finished thickness $\geq 5.5"$ or $1.5"$, respectively, to qualify as an air barrier unless the manufacturer indicates otherwise. If flexible air barriers such as house wrap are used, they shall be fully sealed at all seams and edges and supported using fasteners with caps or heads $\geq 1"$ diameter unless otherwise indicated by the manufacturer. Flexible air barriers shall not be made of kraft paper, paper-based products, or other materials that are easily torn. If polyethylene is used, its thickness shall be ≥ 6 mil.

8. Examples of supports necessary for permanent contact include staves for batt insulation or netting for blown-in insulation. Batts that completely fill a cavity enclosed on all six sides may be used to meet this requirement without the need for supports, even though some compression will occur due to the excess insulation, as long as the compressed value meets or exceeds the required insulation level. Specifically, the following batts may be used in six-sided floor cavities: R-19 batts in 2x6 cavities, R-30 batts in 2x8 cavities, R-38 batts in 2x10 cavities, and R-49 batts in 2x12 cavities. For example, in a home that requires R-19 floor insulation, an R-30 batt may be used in a six-sided 2x8 floor cavity.

9. Fully-aligned air barriers may be installed at the exterior surface of the floor cavity in all Climate Zones if the insulation is installed in contact with this exterior air barrier and the perimeter rim and band joists of the floor cavity are also sealed and insulated to comply with the fully-aligned air barrier requirements for walls.



TRADES
FRAMER
INSULATOR

3 FULLY-ALIGNED AIR BARRIERS

2 FLOORS



A. Floor system does not have air barrier to separate it from garage.



Floor above garage is a continuous air barrier.



B.



C. Insulation is misaligned with floor above.



Insulation is in contact with floor above.



D.



3 FULLY-ALIGNED AIR BARRIERS

2 FLOORS

DETAIL 3.2.2 ^{6, 8, 9}

Cantilevered floor

- A. Install a rigid air barrier or other supporting blocking to separate the cantilever from the conditioned space.*
- B. Seal all seams, gaps, and holes of the air barrier with caulk or foam.
- C. Install insulation without misalignments, compressions, gaps, or voids and align it with the sub-floor, the rigid air barrier (A), and the exterior face of the cavity.
- D. Once insulated, enclose the cavity with a rigid air barrier material.

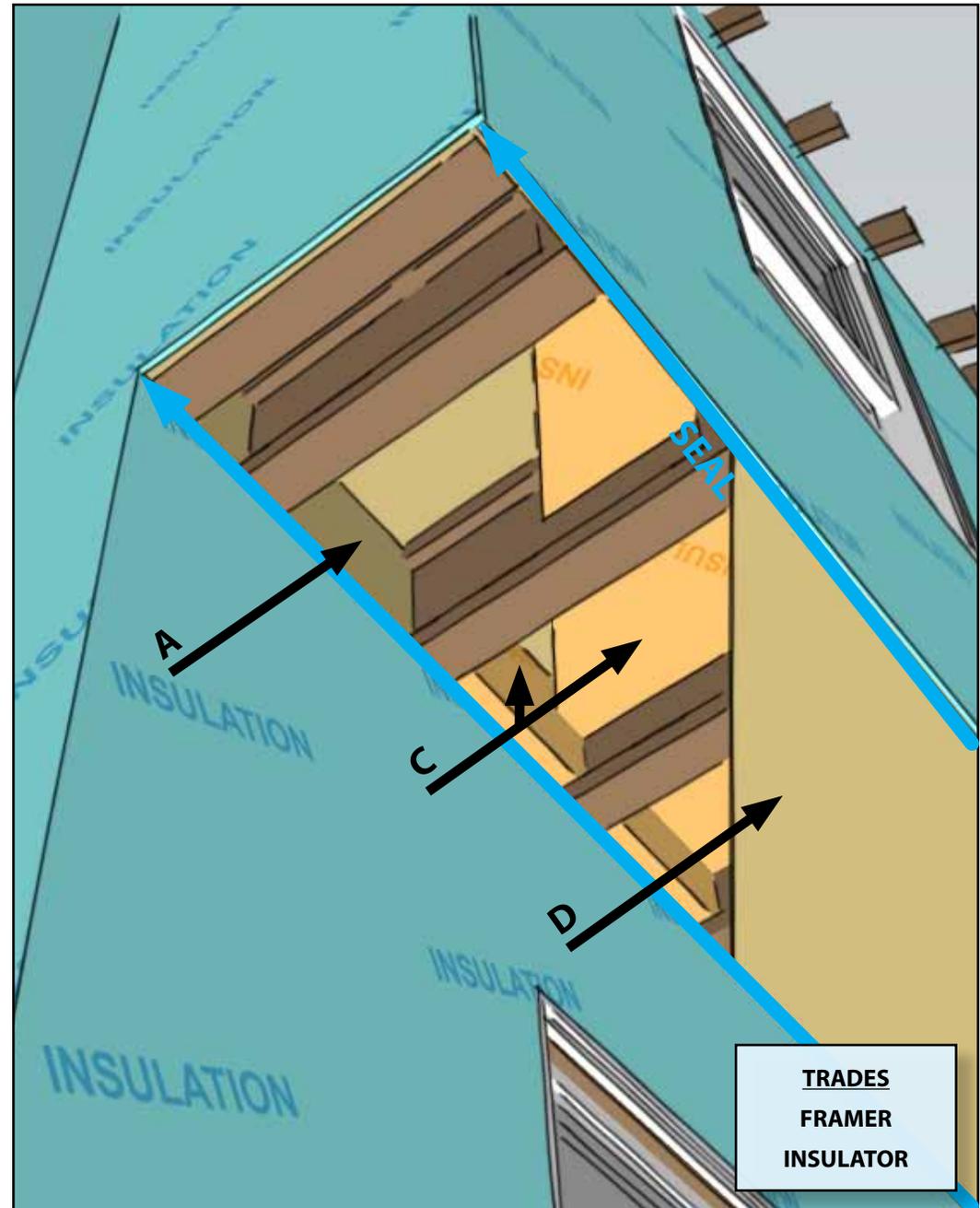
* EPA highly recommends using a rigid air barrier, but it is not a requirement.

FOOTNOTES

6. For purposes of this checklist, an air barrier is defined as any durable solid material that blocks air flow between conditioned space and unconditioned space, including necessary sealing to block excessive air flow at edges and seams and adequate support to resist positive and negative pressures without displacement or damage. EPA recommends, but does not require, rigid air barriers. Open-cell or closed-cell foam shall have a finished thickness $\geq 5.5"$ or $1.5"$, respectively, to qualify as an air barrier unless the manufacturer indicates otherwise. If flexible air barriers such as house wrap are used, they shall be fully sealed at all seams and edges and supported using fasteners with caps or heads $\geq 1"$ diameter unless otherwise indicated by the manufacturer. Flexible air barriers shall not be made of kraft paper, paper-based products, or other materials that are easily torn. If polyethylene is used, its thickness shall be ≥ 6 mil.

8. Examples of supports necessary for permanent contact include staves for batt insulation or netting for blown-in insulation. Batts that completely fill a cavity enclosed on all six sides may be used to meet this requirement without the need for supports, even though some compression will occur due to the excess insulation, as long as the compressed value meets or exceeds the required insulation level. Specifically, the following batts may be used in six-sided floor cavities: R-19 batts in 2x6 cavities, R-30 batts in 2x8 cavities, R-38 batts in 2x10 cavities, and R-49 batts in 2x12 cavities. For example, in a home that requires R-19 floor insulation, an R-30 batt may be used in a six-sided 2x8 floor cavity.

9. Fully-aligned air barriers may be installed at the exterior surface of the floor cavity in all Climate Zones if the insulation is installed in contact with this exterior air barrier and the perimeter rim and band joists of the floor cavity are also sealed and insulated to comply with the fully-aligned air barrier requirements for walls.



3 FULLY-ALIGNED AIR BARRIERS

2 FLOORS



GOOD PIC OF PROPERLY
BLOCKED CANTILEVER
NEEDED

A. No air barrier is present
between cantilever and
conditioned space.



BAD PIC OF IMPROPERLY
AIR SEALED CANTILEVER
NEEDED

B. All holes, gaps, and seams of the
rigid air barrier are air sealed.



GOOD PIC OF PROPERLY
INSULATED CANTILEVER
NEEDED

C. Cantilever is not blocked or
insulated.



BAD PIC OF IMPROPER
INSTALLATION OF RIGID AIR
BARRIER TO UNDERSIDE OF
CANTILEVER
NEEDED

D. Cantilever has been properly
insulated, air sealed, and cavity has
been blocked.



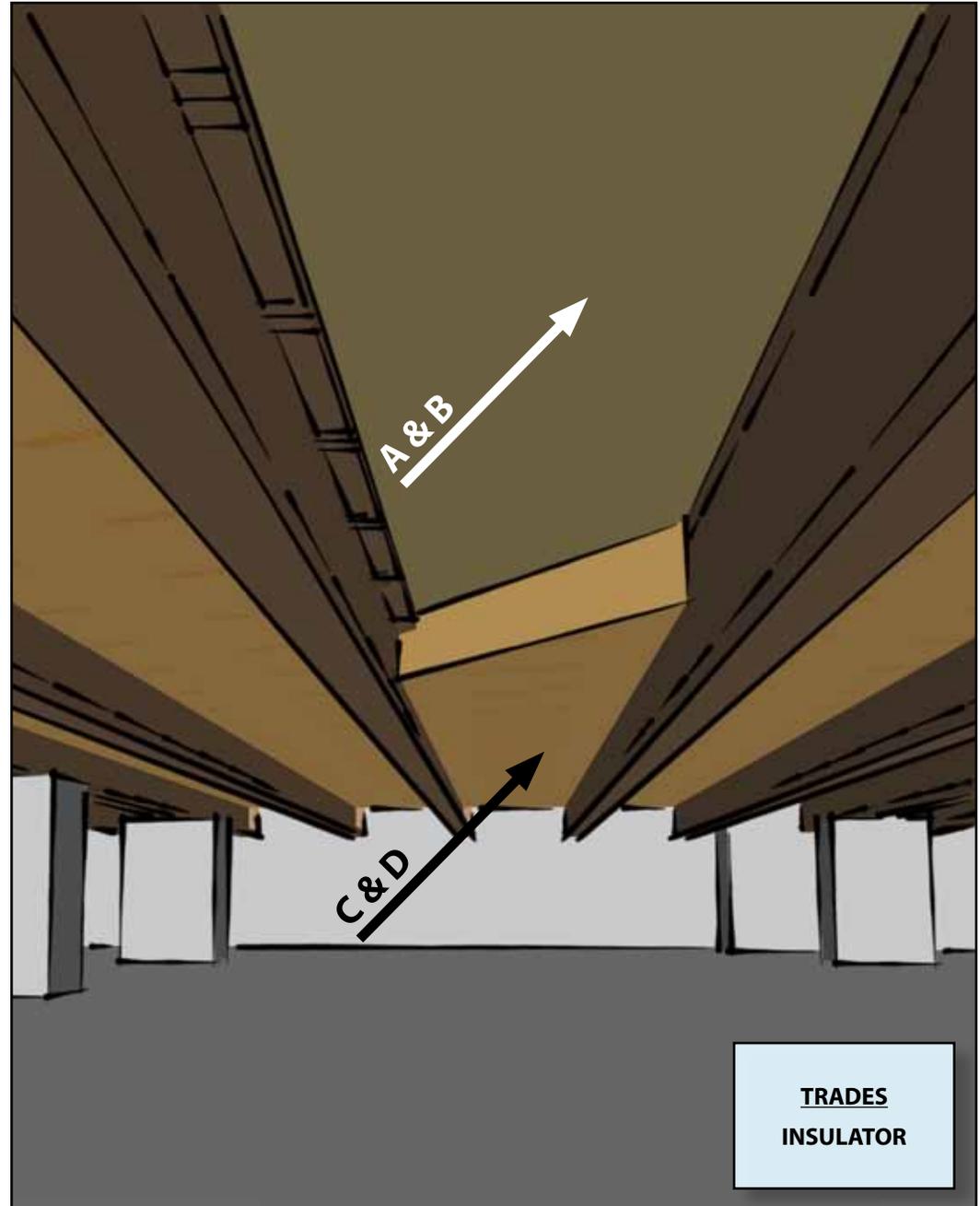
DETAIL 3.2.3 ^{6, 8, 9, †}

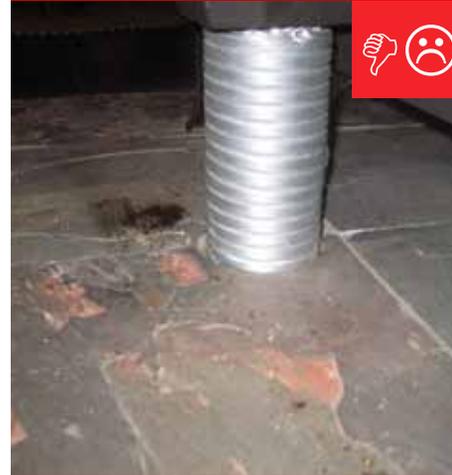
Floor above unconditioned basement or unconditioned crawlspace

- A. Install a continuous rigid air barrier or other supporting material to separate the exterior from the conditioned space.*
- B. Seal all seams, gaps, and holes of the air barrier with caulk or foam.
- C. Install insulation without misalignments, compressions, gaps, or voids in floors above the unconditioned basement or unconditioned crawlspace.
- D. Install supports for insulation to remain in contact with the air barrier. *Examples include metal support rods for batt insulation or netting for blown insulation.*

* EPA highly recommends using a rigid air barrier, but it is not a requirement.

† Footnotes located on page 79.



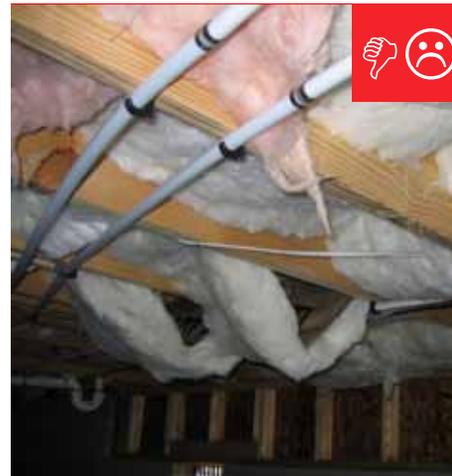


A. No air barrier is present between the floor system and unconditioned space.

Air barrier is present and installed between the floor system and unconditioned space.

B. Penetration through the floor is not air sealed.

Penetrations through floor are air sealed.



C. Sub-floor insulation has gaps, compression, and misalignment.

Sub-floor insulation is properly installed and supported.

D. Sub-floor insulation is not properly installed or supported.

FOOTNOTES

6. For purposes of this checklist, an air barrier is defined as any durable solid material that blocks air flow between conditioned space and unconditioned space, including necessary sealing to block excessive air flow at edges and seams and adequate support to resist positive and negative pressures without displacement or damage. EPA recommends, but does not require, rigid air barriers. Open-cell or closed-cell foam shall have a finished thickness $\geq 5.5''$ or $1.5''$, respectively, to qualify as an air barrier unless the manufacturer indicates otherwise. If flexible air barriers such as house wrap are used, they shall be fully sealed at all seams and edges and supported using fasteners with caps or heads $\geq 1''$ diameter unless otherwise indicated by the manufacturer. Flexible air barriers shall not be made of kraft paper, paper-based products, or other materials that are easily torn. If polyethylene is used, its thickness shall be ≥ 6 mil.

8. Examples of supports necessary for permanent contact include staves for batt insulation or netting for blown-in insulation. Batts that completely fill a cavity enclosed on all six sides may be used to meet this requirement without the need for supports, even though some compression will occur due to the excess insulation, as long as the compressed value meets or exceeds the required insulation level. Specifically, the following batts may be used in six-sided floor cavities: R-19 batts in 2x6 cavities, R-30 batts in 2x8 cavities, R-38 batts in 2x10 cavities, and R-49 batts in 2x12 cavities. For example, in a home that requires R-19 floor insulation, an R-30 batt may be used in a six-sided 2x8 floor cavity.

9. Fully-aligned air barriers may be installed at the exterior surface of the floor cavity in all Climate Zones if the insulation is installed in contact with this exterior air barrier and the perimeter rim and band joists of the floor cavity are also sealed and insulated to comply with the fully-aligned air barrier requirements for walls.

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3 FULLY-ALIGNED AIR BARRIERS

3 CEILINGS

DETAIL 3.3.1 ^{6,10}

Dropped ceiling/soffit below unconditioned attic

- A. Install a continuous rigid air barrier or other supporting material to cap the dropped ceiling and soffits.*
- B. Seal all seams, gaps, and holes of the air barrier with caulk or foam before installation of attic insulation.

* EPA highly recommends using a rigid air barrier, but it is not a requirement.

FOOTNOTES

6. For purposes of this checklist, an air barrier is defined as any durable solid material that blocks air flow between conditioned space and unconditioned space, including necessary sealing to block excessive air flow at edges and seams and adequate support to resist positive and negative pressures without displacement or damage. EPA recommends, but does not require, rigid air barriers. Open-cell or closed-cell foam shall have a finished thickness $\geq 5.5"$ or $1.5"$, respectively, to qualify as an air barrier unless the manufacturer indicates otherwise. If flexible air barriers such as house wrap are used, they shall be fully sealed at all seams and edges and supported using fasteners with caps or heads $\geq 1"$ diameter unless otherwise indicated by the manufacturer. Flexible air barriers shall not be made of kraft paper, paper-based products, or other materials that are easily torn. If polyethylene is used, its thickness shall be ≥ 6 mil.

10. All insulated vertical surfaces are considered walls (e.g., exterior walls, knee walls) and must meet the air barrier requirements for walls. All insulated ceiling surfaces, regardless of slope (e.g., cathedral ceilings, tray ceilings, conditioned attic roof decks, flat ceilings, sloped ceilings), must meet the requirements for ceilings.



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A. No air barrier is present between the dropped ceiling/soffit and the attic.

Air barrier is present between the dropped ceiling/soffit and the attic.

A. No air barrier is present between the dropped ceiling/soffit and the attic.

Air barrier is present between the dropped ceiling/soffit and the attic.



B. Seams of air barrier not sealed.

Seams and penetrations of air barrier properly sealed

B. Seams of air barrier not sealed.

3 FULLY-ALIGNED AIR BARRIERS

3 CEILINGS

DETAIL 3.3.2 ^{6,10}

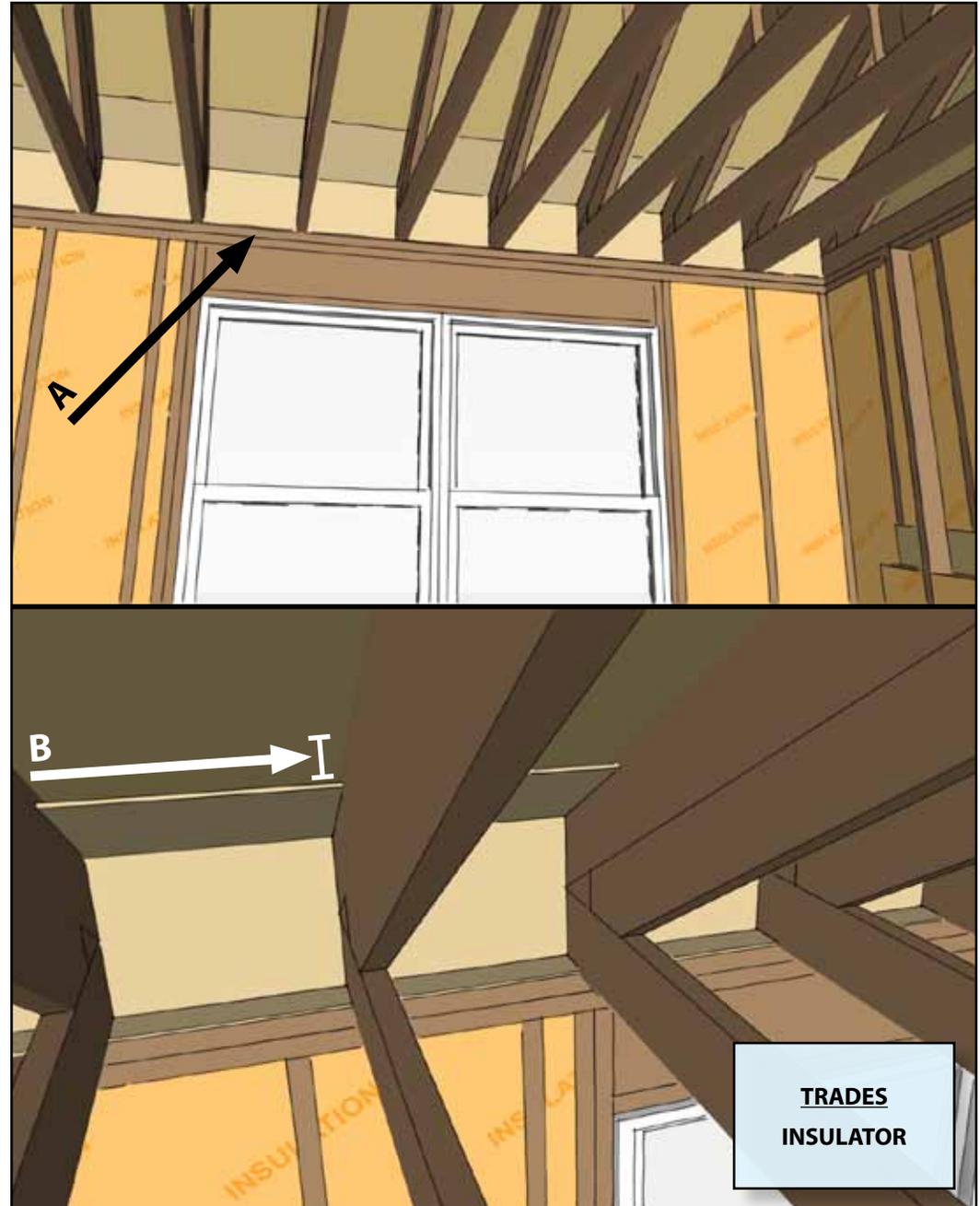
All other ceilings

- A. At interior or exterior surface of ceilings in Climate Zones 1-3; at interior surface of ceilings in Climate Zones 4-8. Also, include barrier at interior edge of attic eave in all climate zones using a wind baffle that extends to the full height of the insulation. Include a baffle in every bay or a tabbed baffle in each bay with a soffit vent that will also prevent wind washing of insulation in adjacent bays.
- B. Install wind baffles with the minimum code required clearance between baffle and roof deck.

FOOTNOTES

6. For purposes of this checklist, an air barrier is defined as any durable solid material that blocks air flow between conditioned space and unconditioned space, including necessary sealing to block excessive air flow at edges and seams and adequate support to resist positive and negative pressures without displacement or damage. EPA recommends, but does not require, rigid air barriers. Open-cell or closed-cell foam shall have a finished thickness $\geq 5.5"$ or $1.5"$, respectively, to qualify as an air barrier unless the manufacturer indicates otherwise. If flexible air barriers such as house wrap are used, they shall be fully sealed at all seams and edges and supported using fasteners with caps or heads $\geq 1"$ diameter unless otherwise indicated by the manufacturer. Flexible air barriers shall not be made of kraft paper, paper-based products, or other materials that are easily torn. If polyethylene is used, its thickness shall be ≥ 6 mil.

10. All insulated vertical surfaces are considered walls (e.g., exterior walls, knee walls) and must meet the air barrier requirements for walls. All insulated ceiling surfaces, regardless of slope (e.g., cathedral ceilings, tray ceilings, conditioned attic roof decks, flat ceilings, sloped ceilings), must meet the requirements for ceilings.



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3 FULLY-ALIGNED AIR BARRIERS

3 CEILINGS



BAD PIC OF WIND BAFFLE WITHOUT CLEARANCE FROM ROOF DECK NEEDED

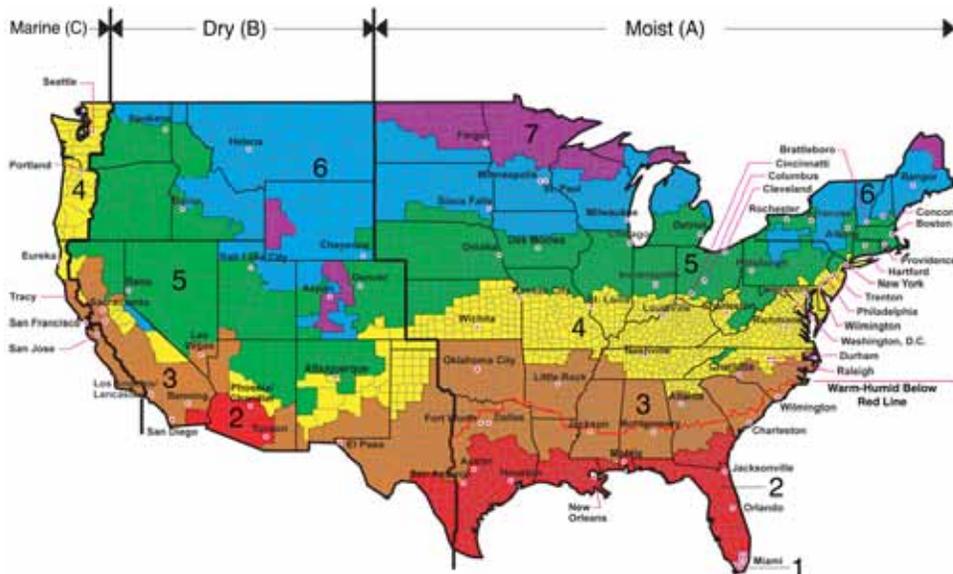


A. Wind baffle installation will not allow insulation over the top plate.

Wind baffle installation will allow proper insulation depth over the top plate.

B.

Wind baffle installation maintains necessary code clearance between baffle and roof deck.



All of Alaska in Zone 7 except for the following Boroughs in Zone 8: Bethel, Dillingham, Fairbanks, N. Star, Nome North Slope, Northwest Arctic, Southeast Fairbanks, Wade Hampton, and Yukon-Koyukuk.

Zone 1 includes: Hawaii, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands

Last Updated: 10/28/11

2009 IECC INSULATION REQUIREMENTS

CLIMATE ZONE	CEILING
Zone 1	R-30
Zone 2	R-30
Zone 3	R-30
Zone 4	R-38
Zone 5	R-38
Zone 6	R-49
Zone 7	R-49

a. R-values are minimums.

Interactive Map:

<http://energycode.pnl.gov/EnergyCodeReqs/>

SECTION 4. REDUCED THERMAL BRIDGING

- 4.1. For insulated ceilings with attic space above (i.e., non-cathedralized ceilings), uncompressed insulation extends to the inside face of the exterior wall below at the following levels: CZ 1 to 5: $\geq R-21$; CZ 6 to 8: $\geq R-30$
- 4.2. For slabs on grade in CZ 4 and higher, 100% of slab edge insulated to $\geq R-5$ at the depth specified by the 2009 IECC and aligned with thermal boundary of the walls
- 4.3. Insulation beneath attic platforms (e.g., HVAC platforms, walkways) $\geq R-21$ in CZ 1 to 5; $\geq R-30$ in CZ 6 to 8
- 4.4. Reduced thermal bridging at above-grade walls separating conditioned from unconditioned space (rim/band joists exempted) using one of the following options:
 - 4.4.1. Continuous rigid insulation, insulated siding, or combination of the two; $\geq R-3$ in CZ 1 to 4, $\geq R-5$ in CZ 5 to 8, OR;
 - 4.4.2. Structural Insulated Panels (SIPs), OR;

4.4.3. Insulated Concrete Forms (ICFs), OR;

4.4.4. Double-wall framing, or;

4.4.5. Advanced framing, including all of the items below:

4.4.5a. All corners insulated \geq R-6 to edge, **AND**;

4.4.5b. All headers above windows and doors insulated, **AND**;

4.4.5c. Framing limited at all windows and doors, **AND**;

4.4.5d. All interior / exterior wall intersections insulated to the same R-value as the rest of the exterior wall, **AND**;

4.4.5e. Minimum stud spacing of 16" o.c. for 2 x 4 framing in all CZ and, in CZ 5 through 8, 24" o.c. for 2 x 6 framing unless construction documents specify other spacing is structurally required

4 REDUCED THERMAL BRIDGING

1 PERIMETER OF INSULATED CEILING MEETS REQUIRED LEVEL

DETAIL 4.1 ¹¹

For insulated ceilings with attic space above (i.e., non-cathedralized ceilings), uncompressed insulation extends to the inside face of the exterior wall below at the following levels: CZ 1 to 5: \geq R-21; CZ 6 to 8: \geq R-30

- A. Install raised-heel trusses or equivalent framing method to allow the specified attic insulation R-value to be installed at the inside face of the exterior wall below (extending over the top plate).

FOOTNOTES

11. The minimum designated R-values must be achieved regardless of the trade-offs determined using an equivalent U-factor or UA alternative calculation. Note that if the minimum designated values are used, they must be compensated with higher values elsewhere using an equivalent U-factor or UA alternative calculation in order to meet the overall insulation requirements of the 2009 IECC. Also, note that these requirements can be met by using any available strategy, such as a raised-heel truss, alternate framing that provides adequate space, and/or high-density insulation. In Climate Zones 1 through 3, one option that will work for most homes is to use 2x6 framing, an R-21 high-density batt, and a wind baffle that only requires 0.5" of clearance.



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THERMAL ENCLOSURE SYSTEM RATER CHECKLIST



4 REDUCED THERMAL BRIDGING

1 PERIMETER OF INSULATED CEILING MEETS REQUIRED LEVEL

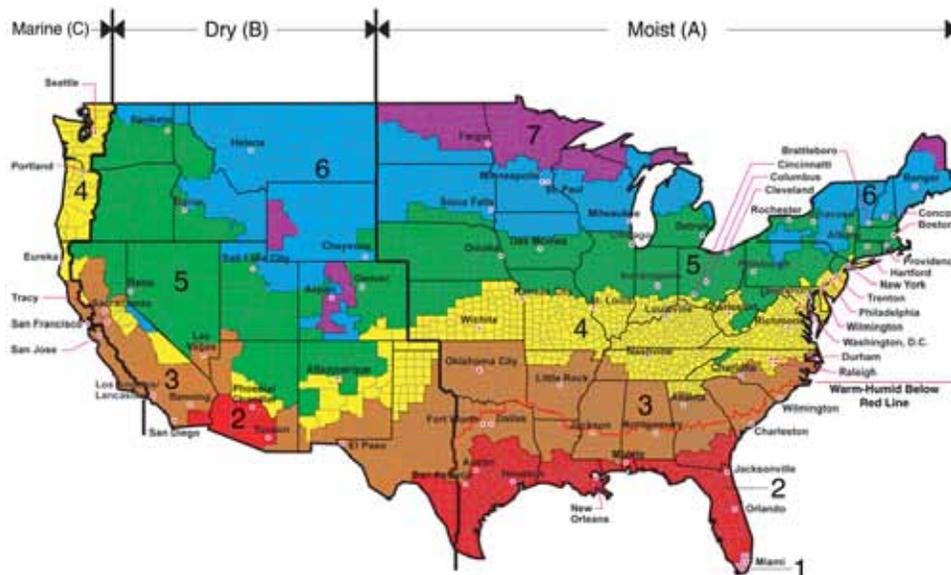


A. Framing will not allow for required insulation depth.

Framing allows for required insulation depth.

A. Framing and wind baffle installation will not allow for required insulation depth.

Framing and wind baffle installation will allow for required insulation depth.



All of Alaska in Zone 7 except for the following Boroughs in Zone 8: Bethel, Dillingham, Fairbanks, N. Star, Nome North Slope, Northwest Arctic, Southeast Fairbanks, Wade Hampton, and Yukon-Koyukuk

Zone 1 includes: Hawaii, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands

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DETAIL 4.2^{4,5}

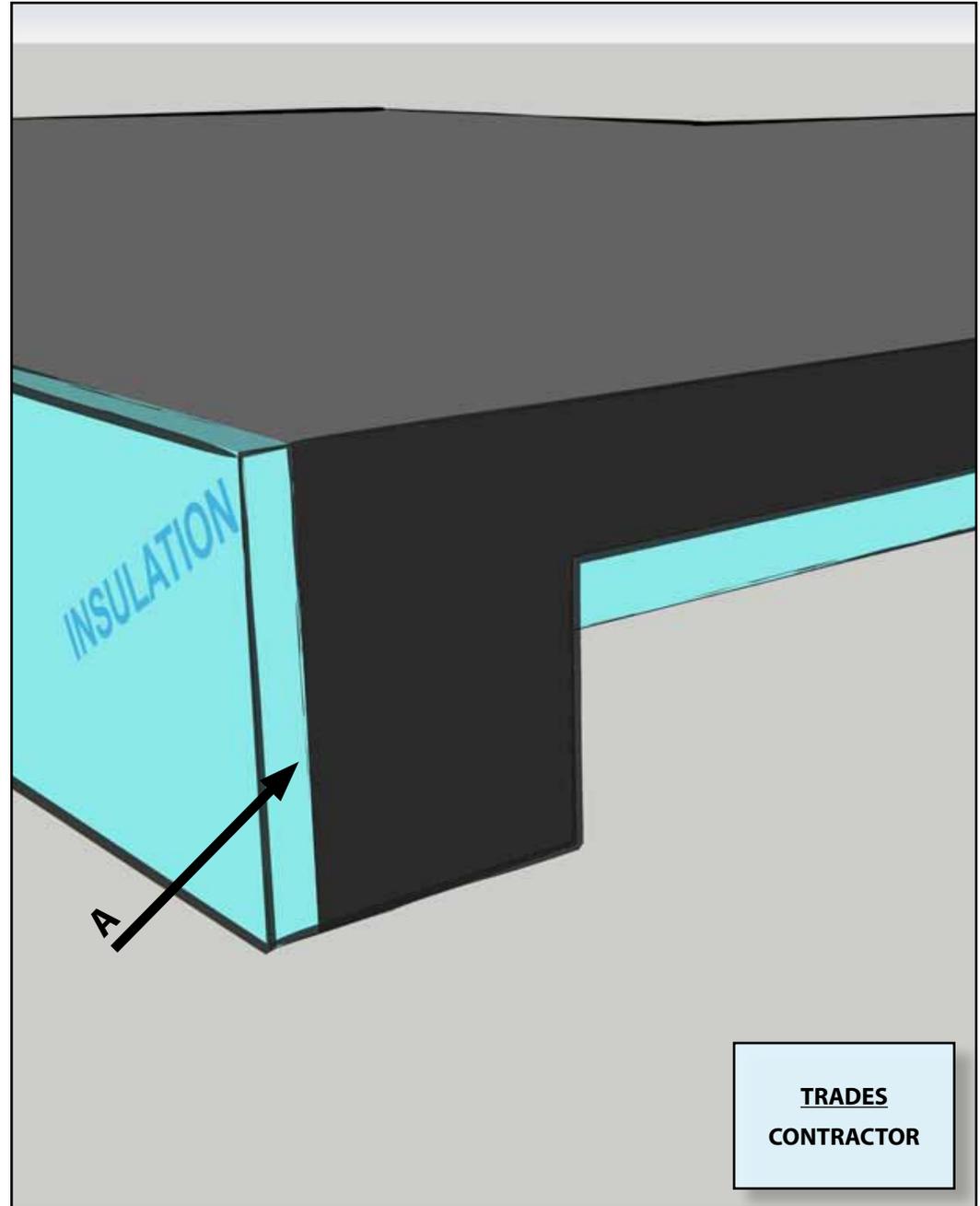
For slabs on grade in CZ 4 and higher, 100% of slab edge insulated to \geq R-5 at the depth specified by the 2009 IECC and aligned with thermal boundary of the walls

- A. Install slab edge insulation to extend to the top of the slab so it provides a complete thermal break.

FOOTNOTES

4. Consistent with the 2009 IECC, slab edge insulation is only required for slab-on-grade floors with a floor surface less than 12 inches below grade. Slab insulation shall extend to the top of the slab to provide a complete thermal break. If the top edge of the insulation is installed between the exterior wall and the edge of the interior slab, it shall be permitted to be cut at a 45-degree angle away from the exterior wall.

5. Where an insulated wall separates a garage, patio, porch, or other unconditioned space from the conditioned space of the house, slab insulation shall also be installed at this interface to provide a thermal break between the conditioned and unconditioned slab. Where specific details cannot meet this requirement, partners shall provide the detail to EPA to request an exemption prior to the home's qualification. EPA will compile exempted details and work with industry to develop feasible details for use in future revisions to the program. A list of currently exempted details is available at: www.energystar.gov/slabeledge.



**TRADES
CONTRACTOR**

THERMAL ENCLOSURE SYSTEM RATER CHECKLIST



4 REDUCED THERMAL BRIDGING

2 SLAB EDGE INSULATION

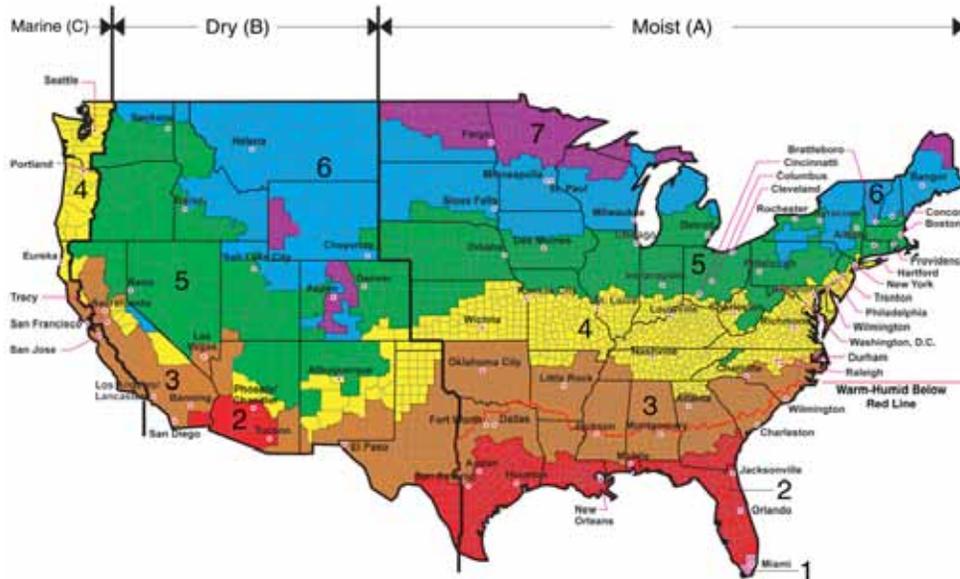


A. Slab insulation does not extend to the top of the slab.

Slab insulation extends to the top of the slab.

A. Slab insulation does not extend to the top of the slab.

Slab insulation extends to the top of the slab.



All of Alaska in Zone 7 except for the following Boroughs in Zone 8: Bethel, Delillingham, Fairbanks, N. Star, Nome North Slope, Northwest Arctic, Southeast Fairbanks, Wade Hampton, and Yukon-Koyukuk.

Zone 1 includes: Hawaii, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands

Last Updated: 10/28/11

SLABS

CLIMATE ZONE	DEPTH	R-VALUE ^{a,b}
Zone 1		0
Zone 2		0
Zone 3		0
Zone 4	10, 2 ft.	
Zone 5	10, 2 ft.	
Zone 6	10, 4 ft.	
Zone 7	10, 4 ft.	

- a. R-values are minimums.
- b. R-5 shall be added to the required slab edge R-values for heated slabs. Insulation depth shall be the depth of the footing or two feet, whichever is less in Climate Zones 1-3 for heated slabs.

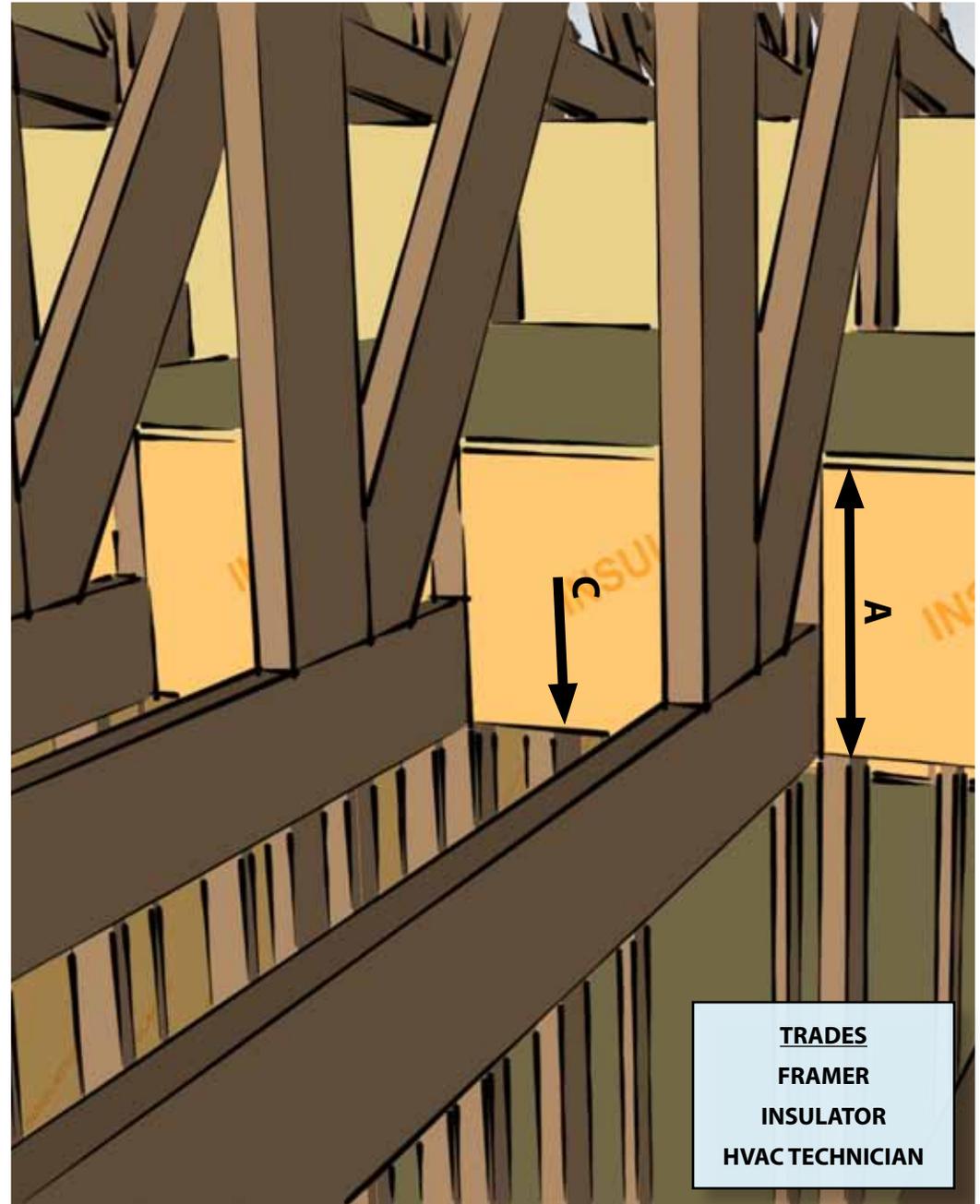
Interactive Map:

<http://energycode.pnl.gov/EnergyCodeReqs/>

DETAIL 4.3

Insulation beneath attic platforms (e.g., HVAC platforms, walkways) \geq R-21 in CZ 1 to 5; \geq R-30 in CZ 6 to 8

- A. Increase the height of the storage or HVAC platform in the attic to allow for proper depth of the insulation beneath the platform without compressing the insulation.
- B. Install insulation without misalignments, compressions, gaps, or voids underneath all attic platforms.
- C. Install insulation so that it is in contact with the air barrier (e.g., drywall ceiling)



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INSULATOR
HVAC TECHNICIAN

THERMAL ENCLOSURE SYSTEM RATER CHECKLIST



4 REDUCED THERMAL BRIDGING

3 ATTIC PLATFORMS

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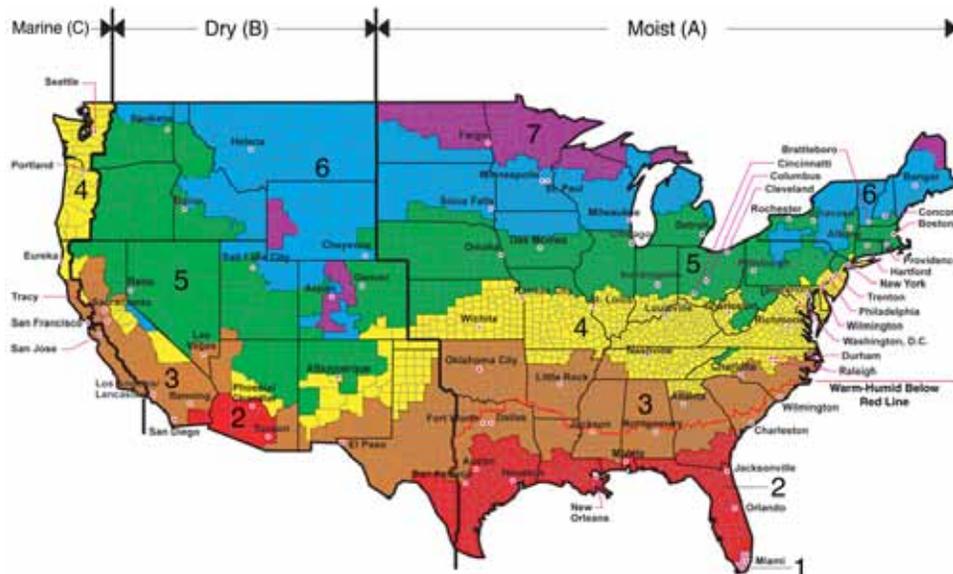
BAD PIC OF IMPROPERLY INSTALLED HVAC PLATFORM NEEDED



A. HVAC platform installed to allow for proper insulation depth.

B./C. Insulation will not be aligned with air barrier.

Insulation installed to correct depth and will be aligned with air barrier.



All of Alaska in Zone 7 except for the following Boroughs in Zone 8: Bethel, Dillingham, Fairbanks, N. Star, Nome North Slope, Northwest Arctic, Southeast Fairbanks, Wade Hampton, and Yukon-Koyukuk
 Zone 1 includes: Hawaii, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands
 Last Updated: 10/28/11

IECC INSULATION REQUIREMENTS^a

CLIMATE ZONE	CEILING
Zone 1	R-30
Zone 2	R-30
Zone 3	R-30
Zone 4	R-38
Zone 5	R-38
Zone 6	R-49
Zone 7	R-49

a. R-values are minimums.

Interactive Map:
<http://energycode.pnl.gov/EnergyCodeReqs/>

4 REDUCED THERMAL BRIDGING

4 WALLS: CONTINUOUS RIGID INSULATION

DETAIL 4.4.1^{12,13,14,15†}

Continuous rigid insulation, insulated siding, or i.e., 1 to 4 combination of the two; \geq R-3 in Climate Zones 1 to 4, \geq R-5 in Climate Zones 5 to 8*[†]

- A. If utilizing insulated siding that is not water-resistant barrier, install a water-resistant barrier before installing siding.
- B. If using steel studs, install continuous rigid insulation of \geq R-3 in CZ 1 to 4 or \geq R-5 in CZ 5 to 8. [†]
- C. Tape and seal all seams of continuous rigid insulation if it is being utilized as a water-resistant barrier.

* Only one item of 4.4.1-4.4.5 must be installed to comply with ENERGY STAR. If the building utilizes steel framing, this requirement must be met.

[†] Footnotes located on page 95.



4 REDUCED THERMAL BRIDGING

4 WALLS: CONTINUOUS RIGID INSULATION



BAD PIC OF IMPROPERLY INSTALLED INSULATED SHEATHING NEEDED



A. Continuous rigid insulation has been installed.



B. Rigid insulation is being installed without cap nails.



Rigid insulation is being installed with cap nails.



BAD PIC OF STEEL FRAMING WITHOUT RIGID INSULATION OR SIDING NEEDED



GOOD PIC OF PROPERLY INSTALLED RIGID INSULATION AND STEEL FRAMING NEEDED

C.



BAD PIC OF IMPROPERLY SEALED RIGID SHEATHING NEEDED



D.

Insulated sheathing has been taped and sealed at seams.

FOOTNOTES

12. Up to 10% of the total exterior wall surface area is exempted from the reduced thermal bridging requirements to accommodate intentional designed details (e.g., architectural details such as thermal fins, wing walls, or masonry fireplaces; structural details, such as steel columns). It shall be apparent to the Rater that the exempted areas are intentional designed details or the exempted area shall be documented in a plan provided by the builder, architect, designer, or engineer. The Rater need not evaluate the necessity of the designed detail to qualify the home.

13. Mass walls utilized as the thermal mass component of a passive solar design (e.g., a Trombe wall) are exempt from this item. To be eligible for this exemption, the passive solar design shall be comprised of the following five components: an aperture or collector, an absorber, thermal mass, a distribution system, and a control system. For more information, see: http://www.energysavers.gov/your_home/designing_remodeling/index.cfm/mytopic=10270.

Mass walls that are not part of a passive solar design (e.g., CMU block or log home enclosure) shall either utilize the strategies outlined in Section 4.4 or the pathway in the assembly with the least thermal resistance shall provide >50% of the applicable component insulation requirement in the 2009 IECC - Table 402.1.1.

14. If used, insulated siding shall be attached directly over a water-resistive barrier and sheathing. In addition, it shall provide the required R-value as demonstrated through either testing in accordance with ASTM C 1363 or by attaining the required R-value at its minimum thickness. Insulated sheathing rated for water protection can be used as a water resistant barrier if all seams are taped and sealed. If non-insulated structural sheathing is used at corners, advanced framing details listed under Item 4.4.5 shall be met for those wall sections.

15. Steel framing shall meet the reduced thermal bridging requirements by complying with Item 4.4.1 of the Checklist.

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4 REDUCED THERMAL BRIDGING

4 WALLS: STRUCTURAL INSULATED PANELS (SIPS)

DETAIL 4.4.2^{12,13}

Structural insulated panels (SIPs)*

- A. Install SIPs according to manufacturer specifications to create a continuous air barrier and thermal boundary.
- B. All seams between Structural Insulated Panels (SIPs) foamed and/or taped per manufacturer's specifications.

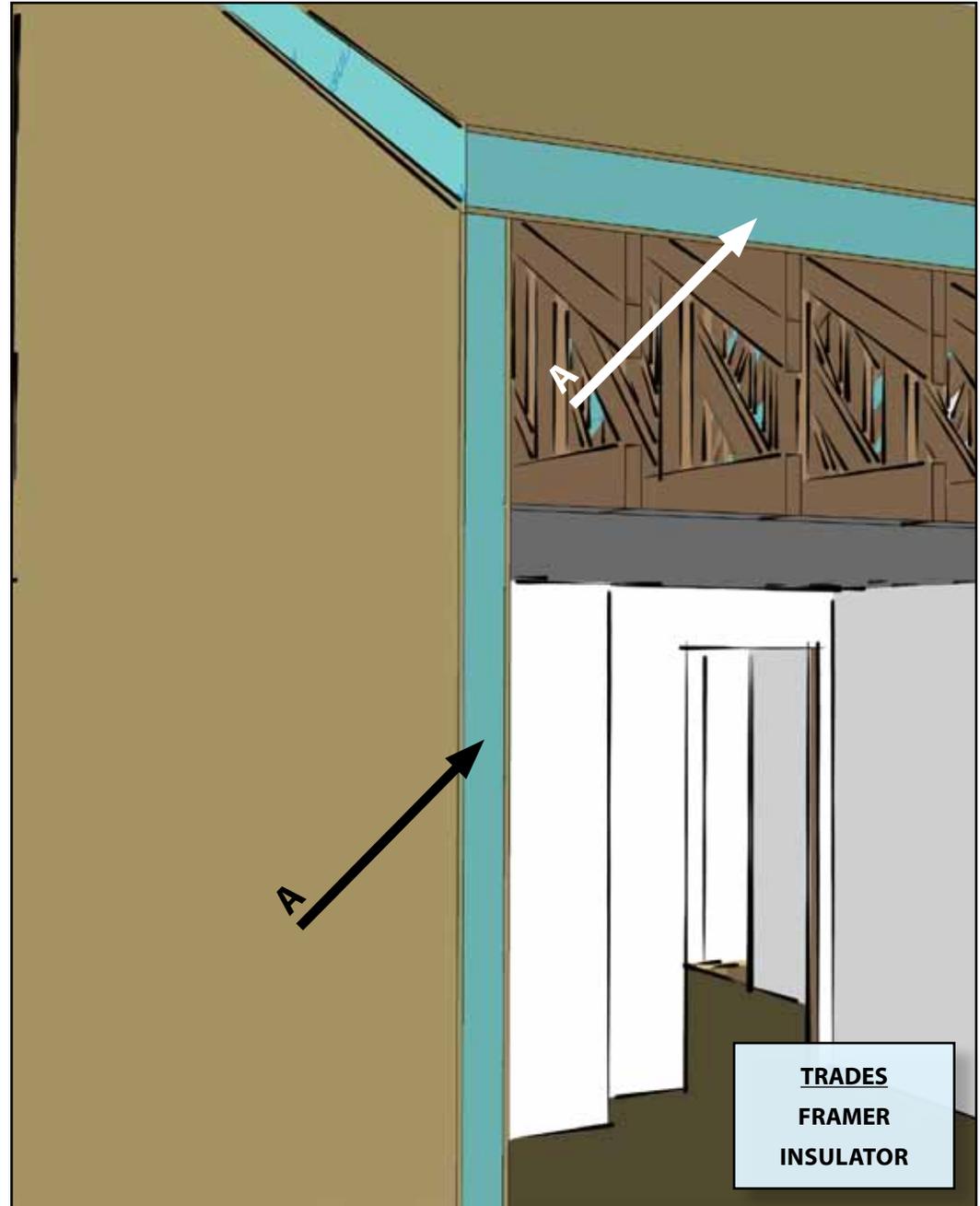
* Only one item of 4.4.1-4.4.5 must be installed to comply with ENERGY STAR.

FOOTNOTES

12. Up to 10% of the total exterior wall surface area is exempted from the reduced thermal bridging requirements to accommodate intentional designed details (e.g., architectural details such as thermal fins, wing walls, or masonry fireplaces; structural details, such as steel columns). It shall be apparent to the Rater that the exempted areas are intentional designed details or the exempted area shall be documented in a plan provided by the builder, architect, designer, or engineer. The Rater need not evaluate the necessity of the designed detail to qualify the home.

13. Mass walls utilized as the thermal mass component of a passive solar design (e.g., a Trombe wall) are exempt from this item. To be eligible for this exemption, the passive solar design shall be comprised of the following five components: an aperture or collector, an absorber, thermal mass, a distribution system, and a control system. For more information, see: http://www.energysavers.gov/your_home/designing_remodeling/index.cfm/mytopic=10270.

Mass walls that are not part of a passive solar design (e.g., CMU block or log home enclosure) shall either utilize the strategies outlined in Section 4.4 or the pathway in the assembly with the least thermal resistance shall provide >50% of the applicable component insulation requirement in the 2009 IECC - Table 402.1.1.



THERMAL ENCLOSURE SYSTEM RATER CHECKLIST

4 REDUCED THERMAL BRIDGING

4 WALLS: STRUCTURAL INSULATED PANELS (SIPS)

ENERGY STAR



BAD PIC OF IMPROPERLY
SEALED SIPS NEEDED

A.



GOOD PIC OF PROPERLY
SEALED SIPS NEEDED



BAD PIC OF IMPROPERLY
SEALED SIPS NEEDED

A.



GOOD PIC OF PROPERLY
SEALED SIPS NEEDED



BAD PIC OF IMPROPERLY
SEALED SIPS NEEDED

B.



GOOD PIC OF PROPERLY
SEALED SIPS NEEDED



BAD PIC OF IMPROPERLY
SEALED SIPS NEEDED

B.



GOOD PIC OF PROPERLY
SEALED SIPS NEEDED

4 REDUCED THERMAL BRIDGING

4 WALLS: INSULATED CONCRETE FORMS (ICFS)

DETAIL 4.4.3^{12,13}

Insulated concrete forms (ICFs)*

- A. Install ICFs according to manufacturer specifications to create a continuous air barrier and thermal boundary.

* Only one item of 4.4.1-4.4.5 must be installed to comply with ENERGY STAR.

FOOTNOTES

12. Up to 10% of the total exterior wall surface area is exempted from the reduced thermal bridging requirements to accommodate intentional designed details (e.g., architectural details such as thermal fins, wing walls, or masonry fireplaces; structural details, such as steel columns). It shall be apparent to the Rater that the exempted areas are intentional designed details or the exempted area shall be documented in a plan provided by the builder, architect, designer, or engineer. The Rater need not evaluate the necessity of the designed detail to qualify the home.

13. Mass walls utilized as the thermal mass component of a passive solar design (e.g., a Trombe wall) are exempt from this item. To be eligible for this exemption, the passive solar design shall be comprised of the following five components: an aperture or collector, an absorber, thermal mass, a distribution system, and a control system. For more information, see: http://www.energysavers.gov/your_home/designing_remodeling/index.cfm/mytopic=10270.

Mass walls that are not part of a passive solar design (e.g., CMU block or log home enclosure) shall either utilize the strategies outlined in Section 4.4 or the pathway in the assembly with the least thermal resistance shall provide >50% of the applicable component insulation requirement in the 2009 IECC - Table 402.1.1.



4 REDUCED THERMAL BRIDGING

4 WALLS: INSULATED CONCRETE FORMS (ICFS)



A. ICFs are being installed to create a continuous air and thermal boundary.

A. ICFs are being installed to create a continuous air and thermal boundary.

4 REDUCED THERMAL BRIDGING

4 WALLS: DOUBLE-WALL FRAMING

DETAIL 4.4.4 ^{12,13,16†}

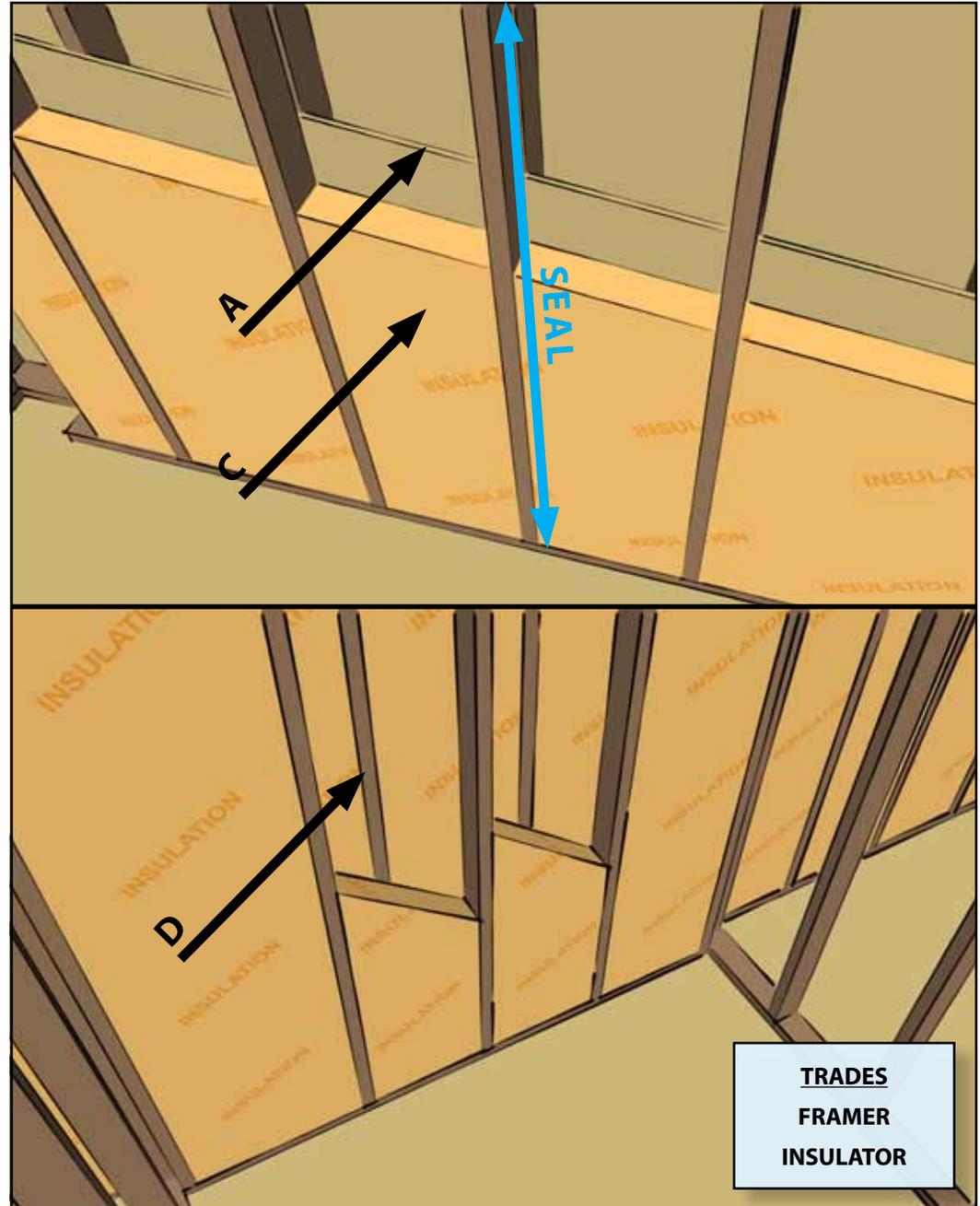
Double-wall framing*

- A. Install a continuous air barrier on the exterior of the interior wall.
- B. Seal all seams, gaps, and holes of the air barrier with caulk or foam.
- C. Install insulation without misalignments, compressions, gaps, or voids.

OR

- D. Completely fill entire cavity of the double wall assembly without misalignments, compressions, gaps, or voids.

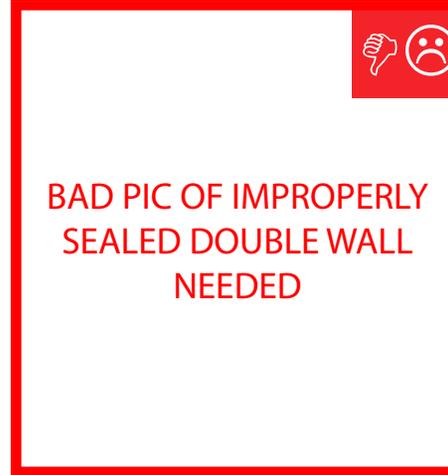
* Only one item of 4.4.1-4.4.5 must be installed to comply with ENERGY STAR.
 * † Footnotes located on page 103.



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4 REDUCED THERMAL BRIDGING

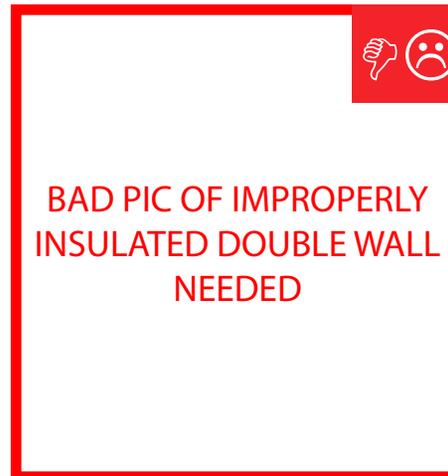
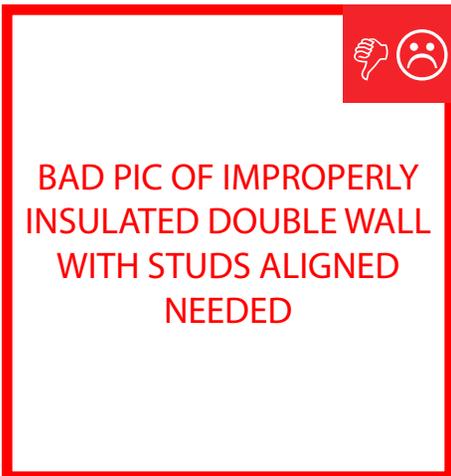
4 WALLS: DOUBLE-WALL FRAMING



A. No air barrier installed between the walls and a larger gap between the walls that needs sealing.

Rigid air barrier installed between double-wall assembly. Inside cavity will be insulated.

B.



C.

D.

FOOTNOTES

12. Up to 10% of the total exterior wall surface area is exempted from the reduced thermal bridging requirements to accommodate intentional designed details (e.g., architectural details such as thermal fins, wing walls, or masonry fireplaces; structural details, such as steel columns). It shall be apparent to the Rater that the exempted areas are intentional designed details or the exempted area shall be documented in a plan provided by the builder, architect, designer, or engineer. The Rater need not evaluate the necessity of the designed detail to qualify the home.

13. Mass walls utilized as the thermal mass component of a passive solar design (e.g., a Trombe wall) are exempt from this item. To be eligible for this exemption, the passive solar design shall be comprised of the following five components: an aperture or collector, an absorber, thermal mass, a distribution system, and a control system. For more information, see: http://www.energysavers.gov/your_home/designing_remodeling/index.cfm/mytopic=10270.

Mass walls that are not part of a passive solar design (e.g., CMU block or log home enclosure) shall either utilize the strategies outlined in Section 4.4 or the pathway in the assembly with the least thermal resistance shall provide >50% of the applicable component insulation requirement in the 2009 IECC - Table 402.1.1.

16. Double-wall framing is defined as any framing method that ensures a continuous layer of insulation covering the studs to at least the R-value required in Section 4.4.1 of the Checklist, such as offset double-stud walls, aligned double-stud walls with continuous insulation between the adjacent stud faces, or single-stud walls with 2x2 or 2x3 cross-framing. In all cases, insulation shall fill the entire wall cavity from the interior to exterior sheathing except at windows, doors, and other penetrations.

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4 REDUCED THERMAL BRIDGING

4 WALLS: ADVANCED FRAMING

DETAIL 4.4.5a ^{12,13,17†}

All corners insulated \geq R-6 to edge*

- A. Utilize recessed corners or an equivalent framing technique that uses no more than three studs per corner to allow access to insulate the cavity to \geq R-6.
- B. If the corner is conventionally framed, drill a hole and fill the cavity with insulation.

* † Footnotes located on page 107.

* All items of 4.4.5a-4.4.5e must be installed to comply with 4.4.5 and ENERGY STAR.



4 REDUCED THERMAL BRIDGING

4 WALLS: ADVANCED FRAMING



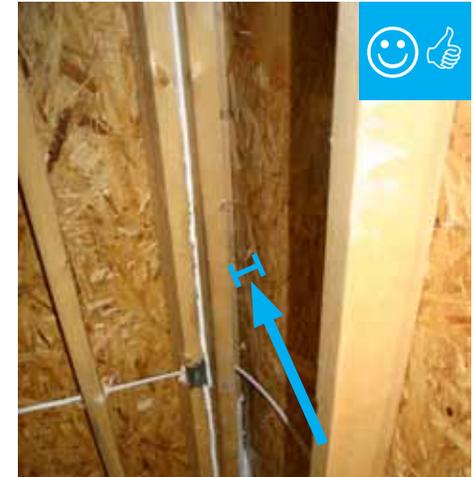
A. Framing does not allow for corner to be insulated.



Framing allows for corner to be insulated.



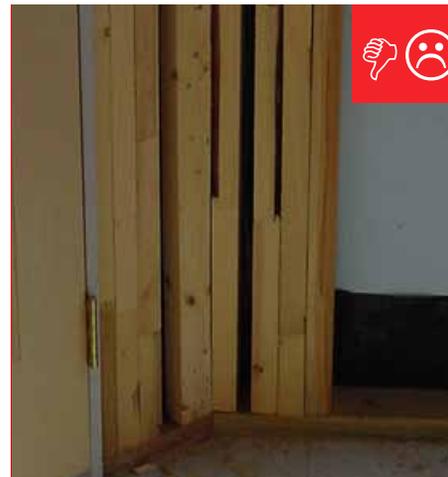
A. Framing does not allow for corner to be insulated.



Framing does allow for corner to be insulated.



B. Framing does not allow for corner to be insulated.



B. Excessive framing will not allow for corner to be insulated.



Gap in framing will allow for corner to be filled with insulation.

FOOTNOTES

12. Up to 10% of the total exterior wall surface area is exempted from the reduced thermal bridging requirements to accommodate intentional designed details (e.g., architectural details such as thermal fins, wing walls, or masonry fireplaces; structural details, such as steel columns). It shall be apparent to the Rater that the exempted areas are intentional designed details or the exempted area shall be documented in a plan provided by the builder, architect, designer, or engineer. The Rater need not evaluate the necessity of the designed detail to qualify the home.

13. Mass walls utilized as the thermal mass component of a passive solar design (e.g., a Trombe wall) are exempt from this item. To be eligible for this exemption, the passive solar design shall be comprised of the following five components: an aperture or collector, an absorber, thermal mass, a distribution system, and a control system. For more information, see: http://www.energysavers.gov/your_home/designing_remodeling/index.cfm/mytopic=10270.

Mass walls that are not part of a passive solar design (e.g., CMU block or log home enclosure) shall either utilize the strategies outlined in Section 4.4 or the pathway in the assembly with the least thermal resistance shall provide > 50% of the applicable component insulation requirement in the 2009 IECC – Table 402.1.1.

17. All exterior corners shall be constructed to allow access for the installation of > R-6 insulation that extends to the exterior wall sheathing. Examples of compliance options include standard-density insulation with alternative framing techniques, such as using three studs per corner, or high-density insulation (e.g., spray foam) with standard framing techniques.

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4 REDUCED THERMAL BRIDGING

4 WALLS: ADVANCED FRAMING

DETAIL 4.4.5b ^{12,13,18†}

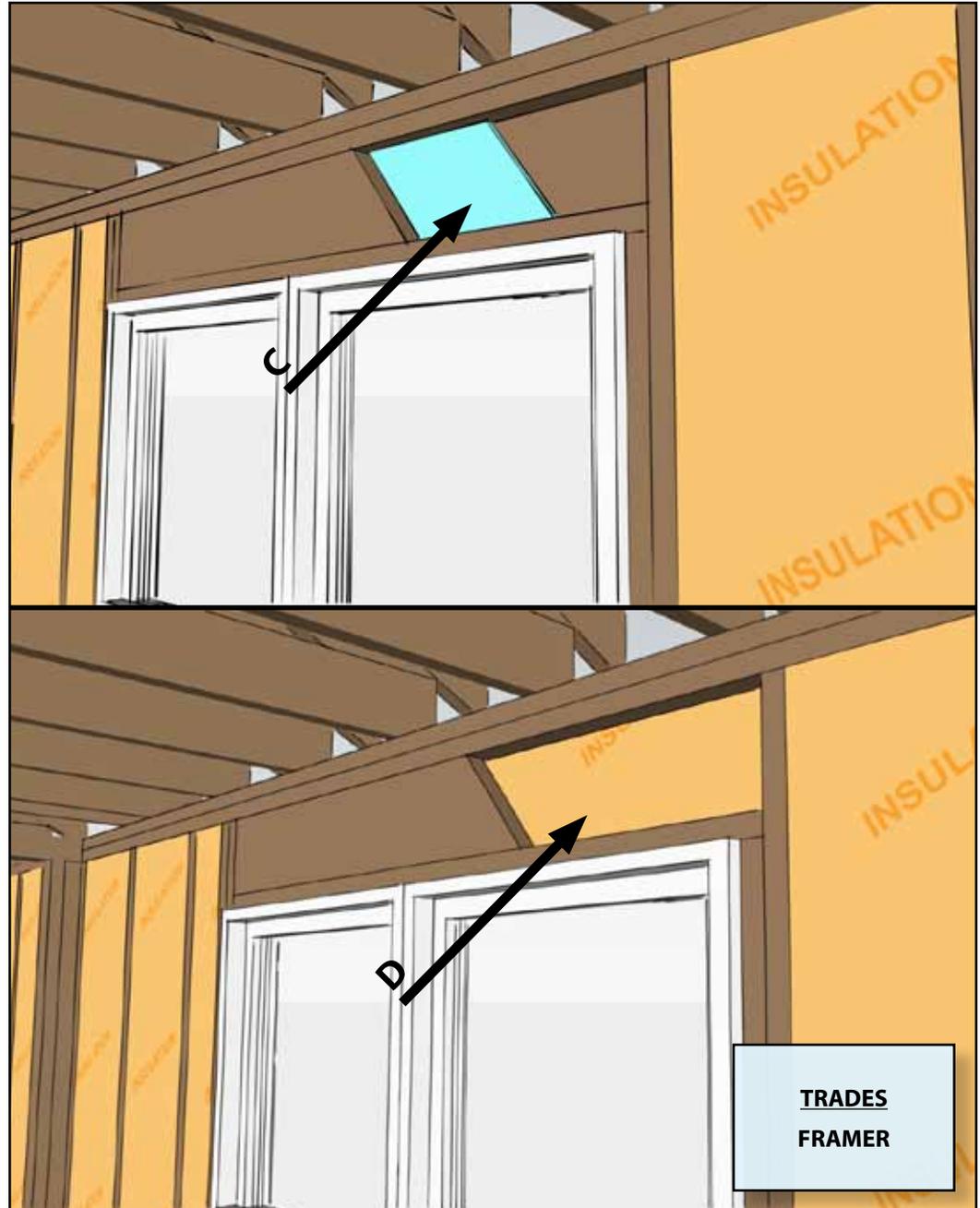
All headers above windows and doors insulated*

Install headers with a minimum R-3 insulation value in wall assemblies with 2x4 framing, or equivalent width, and R-5 for all other assemblies (e.g., with 2x6 framing). Use one of the methods listed below or an equivalent assembly:

- A. Continuous rigid insulation sheathing.
- B. SIP headers.
- C. Two-member headers with insulation in between.
- D. Single-member headers with insulation on one side.

* † Footnotes located on page 111.

* All items of 4.4.5a-4.4.5e must be installed to comply with 4.4.5 and ENERGY STAR.



**TRADES
FRAMER**

4 REDUCED THERMAL BRIDGING

4 WALLS: ADVANCED FRAMING



A. Verify continuous rigid insulation is installed.



B. Verify SIP headers are installed.



C. Verify two member headers with rigid insulation between are installed.



D. Verify single member headers with insulation on one side are installed.

FOOTNOTES

12. Up to 10% of the total exterior wall surface area is exempted from the reduced thermal bridging requirements to accommodate intentional designed details (e.g., architectural details such as thermal fins, wing walls, or masonry fireplaces; structural details, such as steel columns). It shall be apparent to the Rater that the exempted areas are intentional designed details or the exempted area shall be documented in a plan provided by the builder, architect, designer, or engineer. The Rater need not evaluate the necessity of the designed detail to qualify the home.

13. Mass walls utilized as the thermal mass component of a passive solar design (e.g., a Trombe wall) are exempt from this item. To be eligible for this exemption, the passive solar design shall be comprised of the following five components: an aperture or collector, an absorber, thermal mass, a distribution system, and a control system. For more information, see: http://www.energysavers.gov/your_home/designing_remodeling/index.cfm/mytopic=10270.

Mass walls that are not part of a passive solar design (e.g., CMU block or log home enclosure) shall either utilize the strategies outlined in Section 4.4 or the pathway in the assembly with the least thermal resistance shall provide >50% of the applicable component insulation requirement in the 2009 IECC - Table 402.1.1.

18. Header insulation shall be \geq R-3 for wall assemblies with 2x4 framing, or equivalent cavity width, and \geq R-5 for all other assemblies (e.g., with 2x6 framing). Compliance options include continuous rigid insulation sheathing, SIP headers, other prefabricated insulated headers, single-member or two-member headers with insulation either in between or on one side, or an equivalent assembly, except where a framing plan provided by the builder, architect, designer, or engineer indicates that full-depth solid headers are the only acceptable option. The Rater need not evaluate the structural necessity of the details in the framing plan to qualify the home. Also, the framing plan need only encompass the details in question and not necessarily the entire home. R-value requirement refers to manufacturer's nominal insulation value.

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4 REDUCED THERMAL BRIDGING

4 WALLS: ADVANCED FRAMING

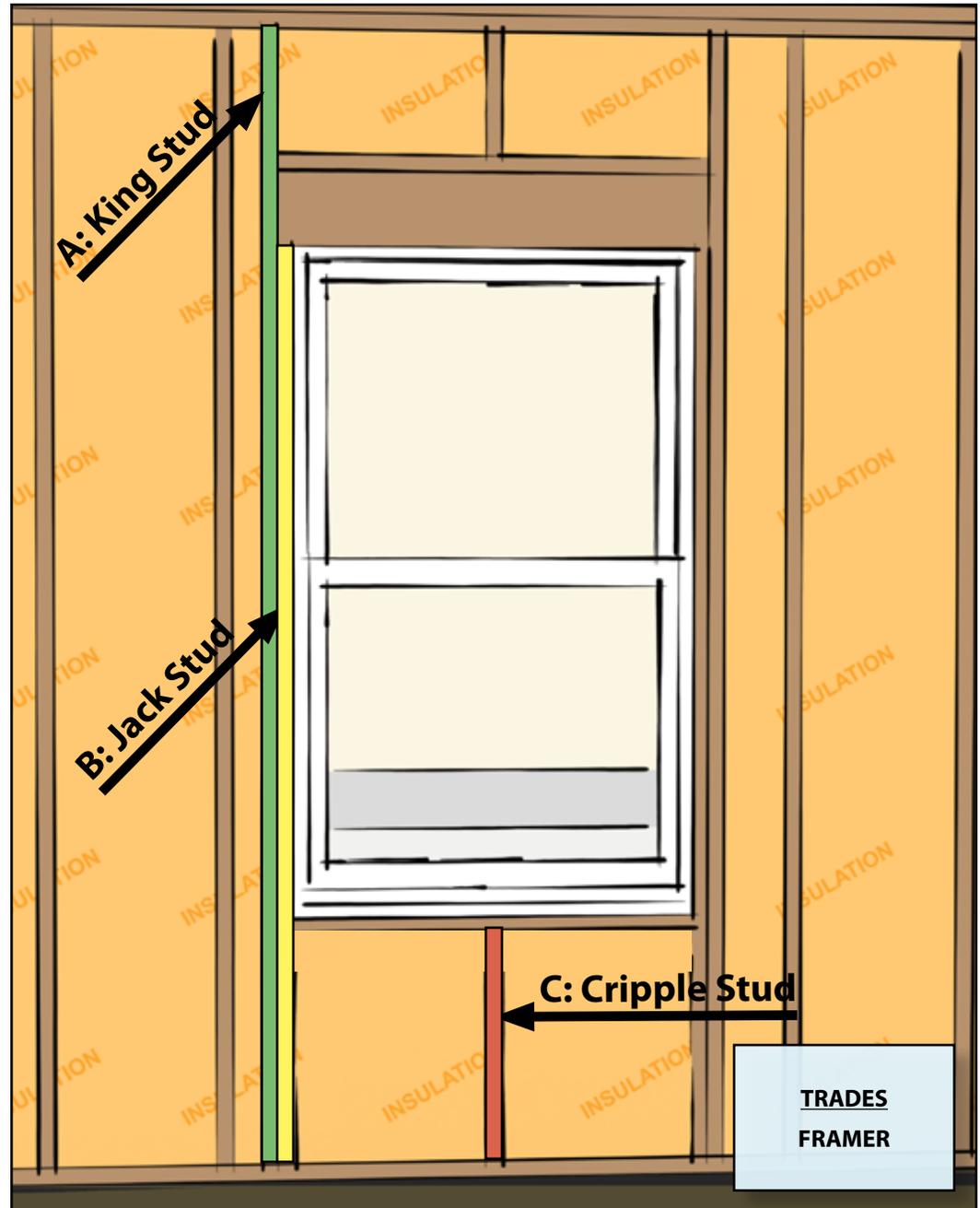
DETAIL 4.4.5c ^{12,13,19†}

Framing limited at all windows and doors*

- A. Limit framing to a maximum of one pair of king studs per window opening.
- B. Limit framing to a maximum of one pair of jack studs per window opening to support the header and window sill.
- C. Install additional jack studs only as needed for structural support and cripple studs only as needed to maintain on-center spacing of studs.
- D. Limit framing to necessary structural requirements for each door opening.

* † Footnotes located on p. 115.

* All items of 4.4.5a-4.4.5e must be installed to comply with 4.4.5 and ENERGY STAR.



4 REDUCED THERMAL BRIDGING

4 WALLS: ADVANCED FRAMING



A. Window has an additional non-structural king stud.



Window framing has appropriate number of king studs.



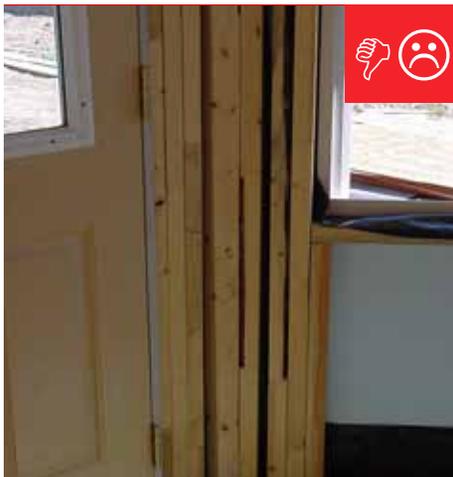
B.



Appropriate use of framing members to support double windows and additional cripples for drywall purposes.

FRAMING DEFINITIONS

- King Stud: Full lengths placed around openings, such as windows and doors. *(Green on 3D image)*
- Jack Stud: A supportive stud at the inset of the king stud, typically used to frame windows or doors. *(Yellow on 3D image)*
- Cripple Stud: A trimmed stud inserted between the jack studs, above a header or beneath a window. *(Red on 3D image)*



D. Excessive and structurally unnecessary framing at door.



Appropriate door framing installed.

FOOTNOTES

12. Up to 10% of the total exterior wall surface area is exempted from the reduced thermal bridging requirements to accommodate intentional designed details (e.g., architectural details such as thermal fins, wing walls, or masonry fireplaces; structural details, such as steel columns). It shall be apparent to the Rater that the exempted areas are intentional designed details or the exempted area shall be documented in a plan provided by the builder, architect, designer, or engineer. The Rater need not evaluate the necessity of the designed detail to qualify the home.

13. Mass walls utilized as the thermal mass component of a passive solar design (e.g., a Trombe wall) are exempt from this item. To be eligible for this exemption, the passive solar design shall be comprised of the following five components: an aperture or collector, an absorber, thermal mass, a distribution system, and a control system. For more information, see: http://www.energysavers.gov/your_home/designing_remodeling/index.cfm/mytopic=10270.

Mass walls that are not part of a passive solar design (e.g., CMU block or log home enclosure) shall either utilize the strategies outlined in Section 4.4 or the pathway in the assembly with the least thermal resistance shall provide >50% of the applicable component insulation requirement in the 2009 IECC - Table 402.1.1.

19. Framing at windows shall be limited to a maximum of one pair of king studs and one pair jack studs per window opening to support the header and window sill. Additional jack studs shall be used only as needed for structural support and cripple studs only as needed to maintain on-center spacing of studs.

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4 REDUCED THERMAL BRIDGING

4 WALLS: ADVANCED FRAMING

DETAIL 4.4.5d ^{12,13,20†}

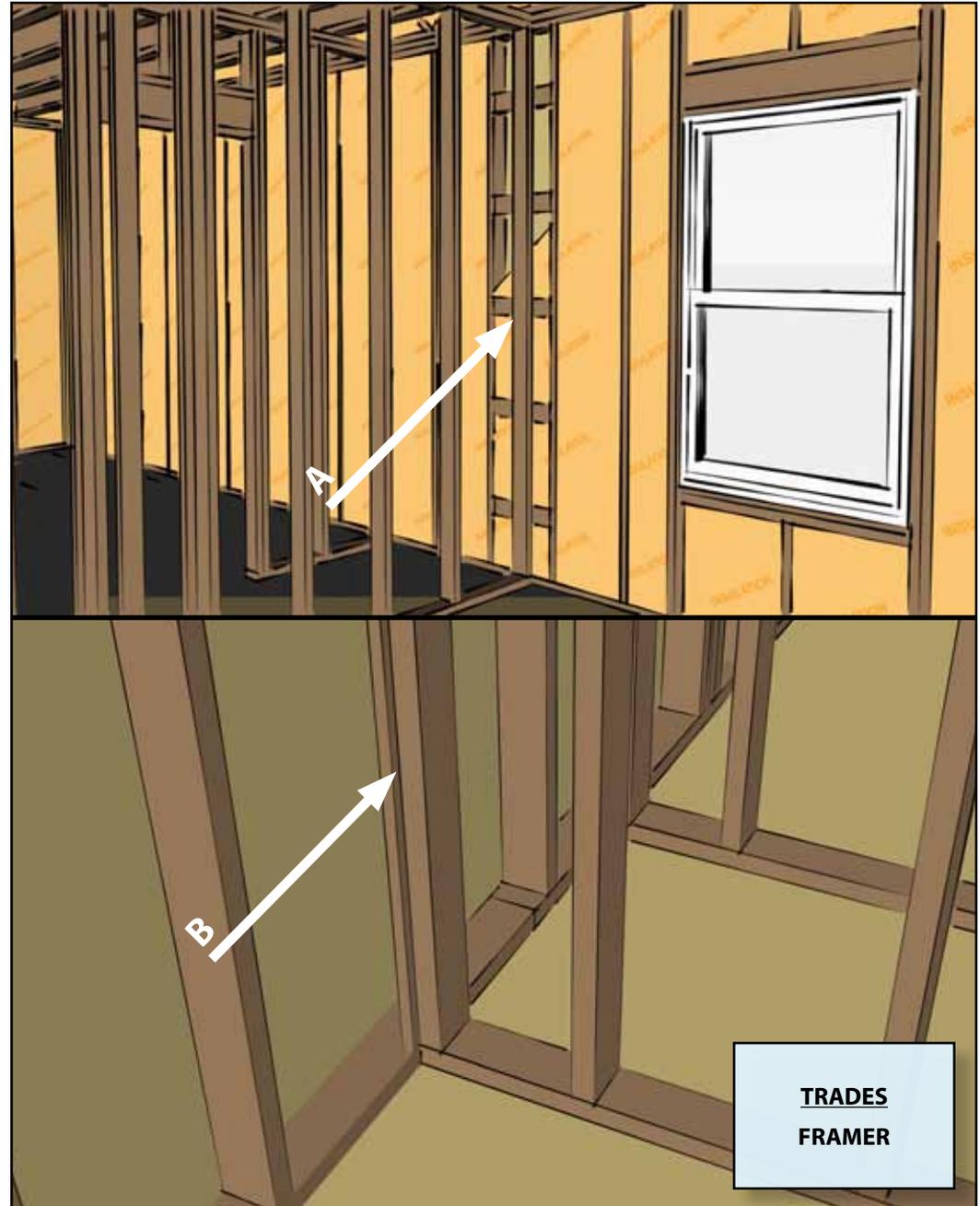
All interior / exterior wall intersections insulated to the same R-value as the rest of the exterior wall*

Install insulation to run continuously behind interior/exterior wall intersections. Use one of the methods listed below or an equivalent assembly:

- A. Ladder blocking.
- B. Full length 2 x 6 or 1 x 6 nailer behind the first partition stud.

* †Footnotes located on p. 119.

* All items of 4.4.5a-4.4.5e must be installed to comply with 4.4.5 and ENERGY STAR.



4 REDUCED THERMAL BRIDGING

4 WALLS: ADVANCED FRAMING

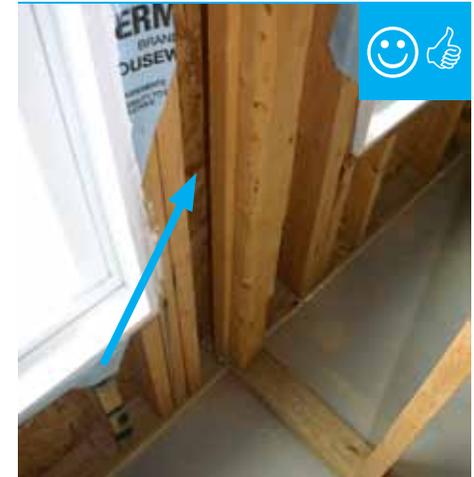


A. Conventional T-post detail is extremely difficult to insulate and usually doesn't happen.

Ladder blocking allows for insulation behind the wall intersection.



B. Conventional T-post detail is extremely difficult to insulate and usually doesn't happen.



Full length 2 X 6 nailer had been installed to allow space for insulation at wall intersection.

FOOTNOTES

12. Up to 10% of the total exterior wall surface area is exempted from the reduced thermal bridging requirements to accommodate intentional designed details (e.g., architectural details such as thermal fins, wing walls, or masonry fireplaces; structural details, such as steel columns). It shall be apparent to the Rater that the exempted areas are intentional designed details or the exempted area shall be documented in a plan provided by the builder, architect, designer, or engineer. The Rater need not evaluate the necessity of the designed detail to qualify the home.

13. Mass walls utilized as the thermal mass component of a passive solar design (e.g., a Trombe wall) are exempt from this item. To be eligible for this exemption, the passive solar design shall be comprised of the following five components: an aperture or collector, an absorber, thermal mass, a distribution system, and a control system. For more information, see: http://www.energysavers.gov/your_home/designing_remodeling/index.cfm/mytopic=10270.

Mass walls that are not part of a passive solar design (e.g., CMU block or log home enclosure) shall either utilize the strategies outlined in Section 4.4 or the pathway in the assembly with the least thermal resistance shall provide >50% of the applicable component insulation requirement in the 2009 IECC - Table 402.1.1.

20. Insulation shall run behind interior/exterior wall intersections using ladder blocking, full length 2"x6" or 1"x6" furring behind the first partition stud, drywall clips, or other equivalent alternative.

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4 REDUCED THERMAL BRIDGING

4 WALLS: ADVANCED FRAMING

DETAIL 4.4.5e ^{12,13,21†}

Minimum stud spacing of 16" o.c. for 2 x 4 walls in all Climate Zones and, in Climate Zones 5 through 8, 24" o.c. for 2 x 6 framing unless construction documents specify other spacing is structurally required

- A. 16" for 2 x 4 framing on center in all Climate Zones.
- B. 24" for 2 x 6 framing on center in Climate Zones 5 to 8.

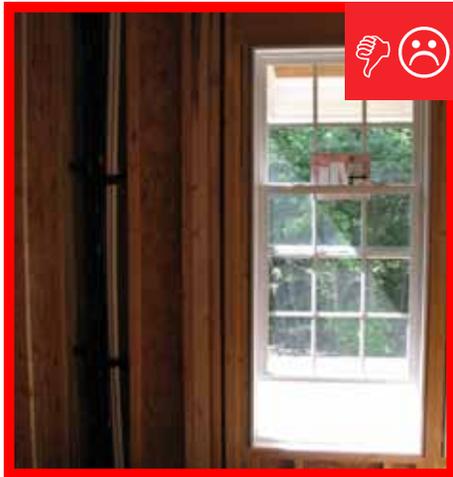
* †Footnotes located on p. 123.

* All items of 4.4.5a-4.4.5e must be installed to comply with 4.4.5 and ENERGY STAR.



4 REDUCED THERMAL BRIDGING

4 WALLS: ADVANCED FRAMING



A. Excessive framing and improper spacing of studs.



Proper spacing of 2 x 4 studs.



B. Excessive framing and improper spacing of studs.



Proper spacing of 2 x 6 studs.

FOOTNOTES

12. Up to 10% of the total exterior wall surface area is exempted from the reduced thermal bridging requirements to accommodate intentional designed details (e.g., architectural details such as thermal fins, wing walls, or masonry fireplaces; structural details, such as steel columns). It shall be apparent to the Rater that the exempted areas are intentional designed details or the exempted area shall be documented in a plan provided by the builder, architect, designer, or engineer. The Rater need not evaluate the necessity of the designed detail to qualify the home.

13. Mass walls utilized as the thermal mass component of a passive solar design (e.g., a Trombe wall) are exempt from this item. To be eligible for this exemption, the passive solar design shall be comprised of the following five components: an aperture or collector, an absorber, thermal mass, a distribution system, and a control system. For more information, see: http://www.energysavers.gov/your_home/designing_remodeling/index.cfm/mytopic=10270.

Mass walls that are not part of a passive solar design (e.g., CMU block or log home enclosure) shall either utilize the strategies outlined in Section 4.4 or the pathway in the assembly with the least thermal resistance shall provide >50% of the applicable component insulation requirement in the 2009 IECC - Table 402.1.1.

21. Vertical framing members shall either be on-center or have an alternative structural purpose (e.g., framing members at the edge of pre-fabricated panels) that is apparent to the Rater or documented in a framing plan provided by the builder, architect, designer, or engineer. The Rater need not evaluate the structural necessity of the details in the framing plan to qualify the home. Also, the framing plan need only encompass the details in question and not necessarily the entire home. No more than 5% of studs may lack an apparent or documented structural purpose, which is equivalent to one vertical stud for every 30 linear feet of wall, assuming 16" o.c. stud spacing.

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SECTION 5. AIR SEALING

5.1. Penetrations to unconditioned space fully sealed with solid blocking or flashing as needed and gaps sealed with caulk or foam:

5.1.1. Duct/flue shaft

5.1.2. Plumbing/piping

5.1.3. Electrical wiring

5.1.4. Bathroom and kitchen exhaust fans

5.1.5. Recessed lighting fixtures adjacent to unconditioned space ICAT labeled and fully gasketed. Also, if in insulated ceiling without attic above, exterior surface of fixture insulated to $\geq R-10$ in CZ 4 and higher to minimize condensation potential.

5.1.6. Light tubes adjacent to unconditioned space include lens separating unconditioned and conditioned space and are fully gasketed

5.2. Cracks in the building envelope fully sealed:

5.2.1. All sill plates adjacent to conditioned space sealed to foundation or sub-floor with caulk. Foam gasket also placed beneath sill plate if resting atop concrete or masonry and adjacent to conditioned space.

- 5.2.2. At top of walls adjoining unconditioned spaces, continuous top plates or sealed blocking using caulk, foam, or equivalent material
- 5.2.3. Sheetrock sealed to top plate at all attic/wall interfaces using caulk, foam, or equivalent material. Either apply sealant directly between sheetrock and top plate or to the seam between the two from the attic above. Construction adhesive shall not be used
- 5.2.4. Rough opening around windows & exterior doors sealed with caulk or foam
- 5.2.5. Marriage joints between modular home modules at all exterior boundary conditions fully sealed with gasket and foam
- 5.2.6. All seams between Structural Insulated Panels (SIPs) foamed and/or taped per manufacturer's instructions
- 5.2.7. In multifamily buildings, the gap between the drywall shaft wall (i.e. common wall) and the structural framing between units fully sealed at all exterior boundaries

5.3. Other openings:

- 5.3.1. Doors adjacent to unconditioned space (e.g., attics, garages, basements) or ambient conditions gasketed or made substantially air-tight
- 5.3.2. Attic access panels and drop-down stairs equipped with a durable \geq R-10 insulated cover that is gasketed (i.e., not caulked) to produce continuous air seal when occupant is not accessing the attic
- 5.3.3. Whole-house fans equipped with a durable \geq R-10 insulated cover that is gasketed and either installed on the house side or mechanically operated

5 AIR SEALING

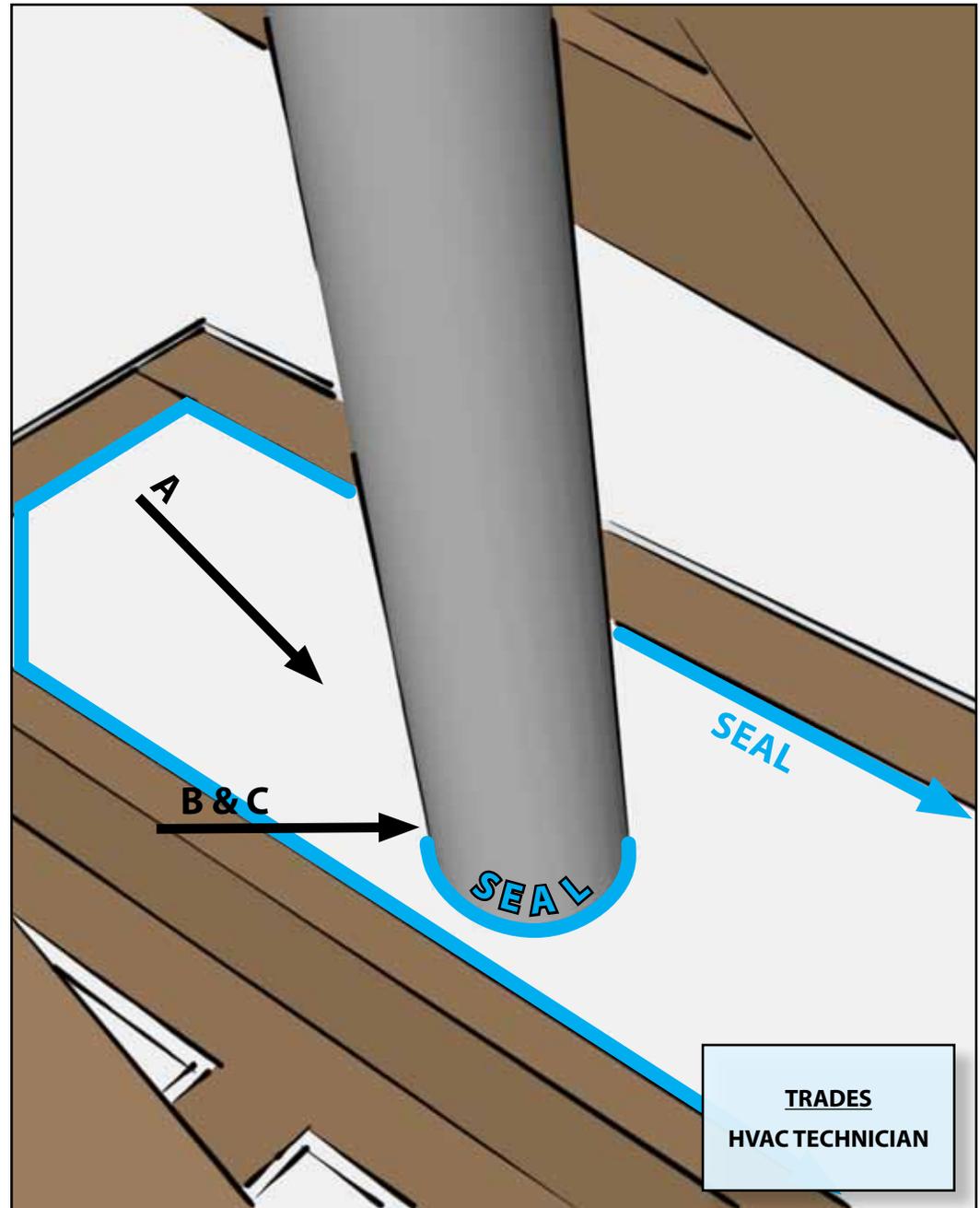
1 PENETRATIONS, GAPS, AND HOLES TO UNCONDITIONED SPACE FULLY SEALED

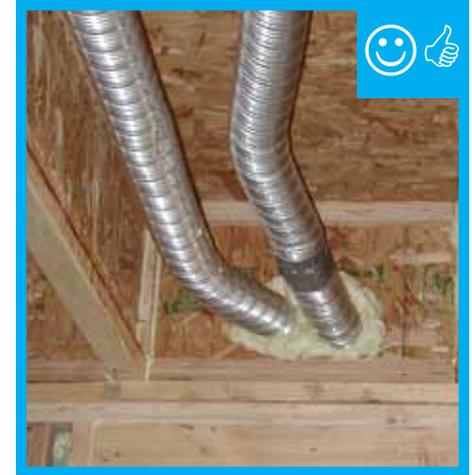
DETAIL 5.1.1

Duct / flue shaft

- A. Install a continuous rigid air barrier material to separate the exterior from the conditioned space.*
- B. Using a saw or drill, cleanly cut all penetrating holes no more than 1 inch larger in diameter than the penetrating object to allow for proper air sealing.
- C. Seal all gaps, and holes to unconditioned space with caulk or foam. Fibrous insulation is not an air barrier and cannot be used for sealing gaps.
- D. Use high temperature caulking along with flashing or UL-rated collars. Install them continuously around all combustion flues while maintaining proper clearance from combustion materials.

* EPA recommends using a rigid air barrier, but it is not a requirement.





A. Chase not capped.

Chase capped with rigid air barrier and duct work penetrations properly sealed.

B. Penetration hole is larger than duct and not sealed.

Neatly cut and sealed penetration.



C. Fibrous insulation does not air seal.

Penetrations have been neatly cut and properly sealed with foam.

D. Vent sleeve not completely sealed.

Vent and air barrier sealed.

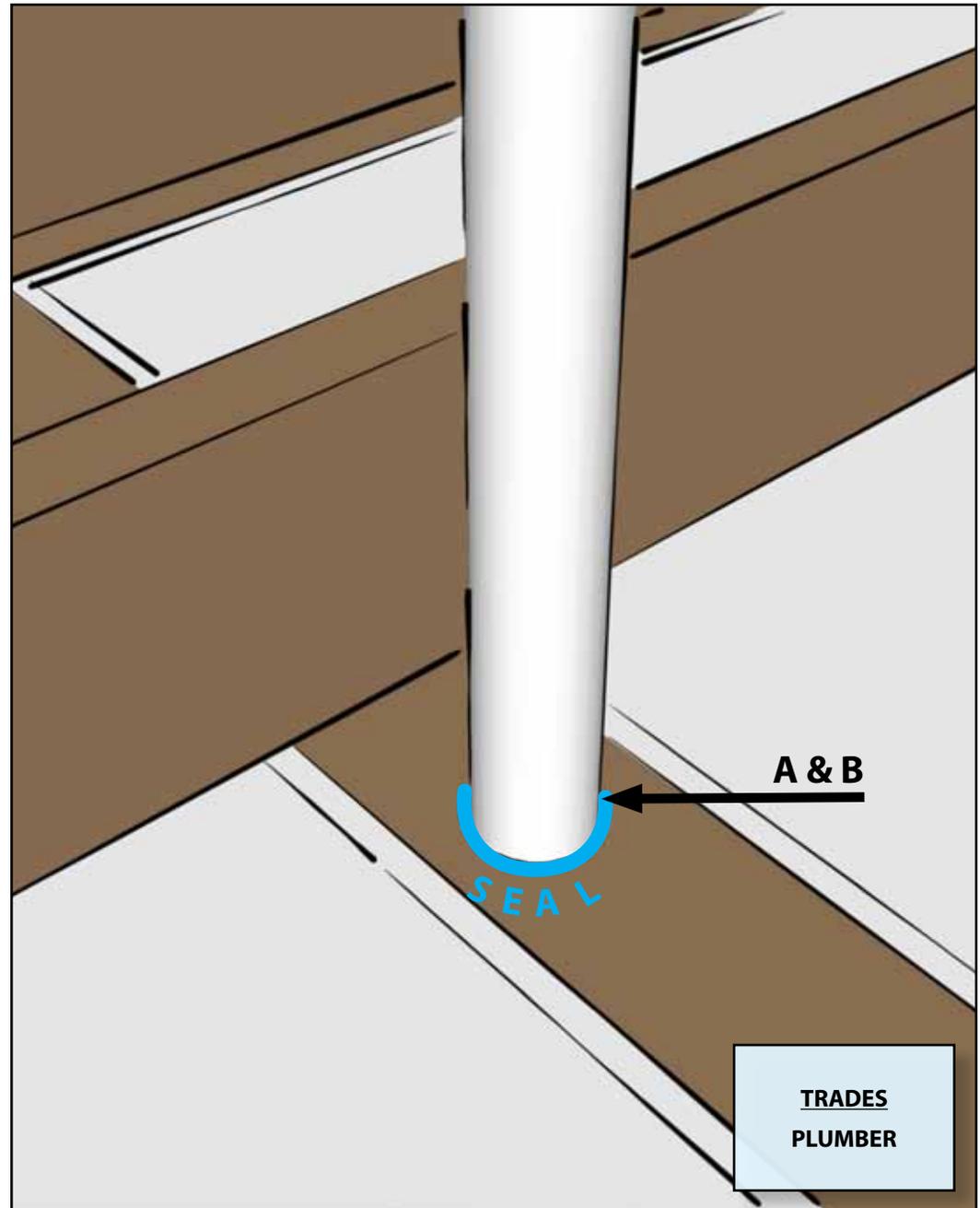
5 AIR SEALING

1 PENETRATIONS, GAPS, AND HOLES TO UNCONDITIONED SPACE FULLY SEALED

DETAIL 5.1.2

Plumbing / piping

- A. Using a saw or drill, cleanly cut all penetrating holes no more than 1 inch larger in diameter than the penetrating object to allow for proper air sealing.
- B. Seal all gaps, and holes to unconditioned space with caulk or foam. Fibrous insulation is not an air barrier and cannot be used for sealing gaps.



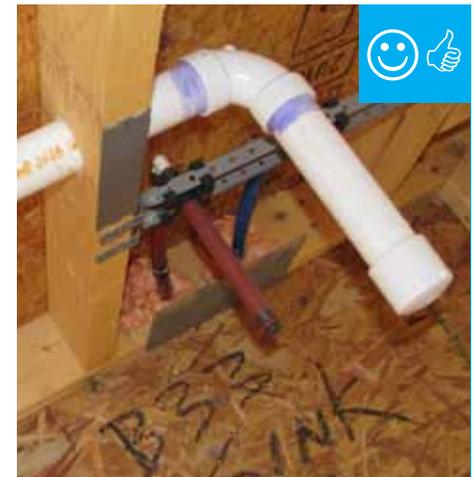
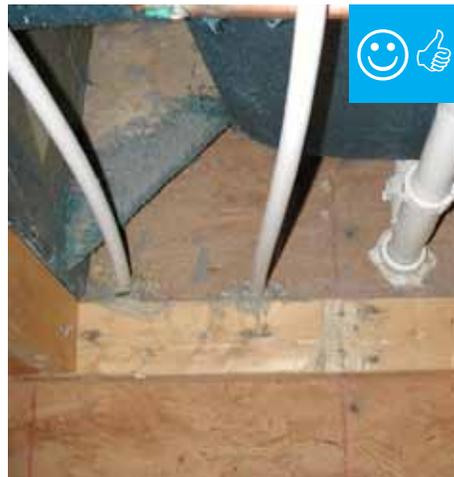


A. Holes have been cut excessively larger than needed making it difficult to seal.

Neatly cut hole has been properly sealed with foam.

A. Holes have been cut excessively larger than needed making it difficult to seal.

Neatly cut holes have been properly sealed with foam.



B. Hole has not been air sealed.

Neatly cut holes have been properly sealed with caulk and foam.

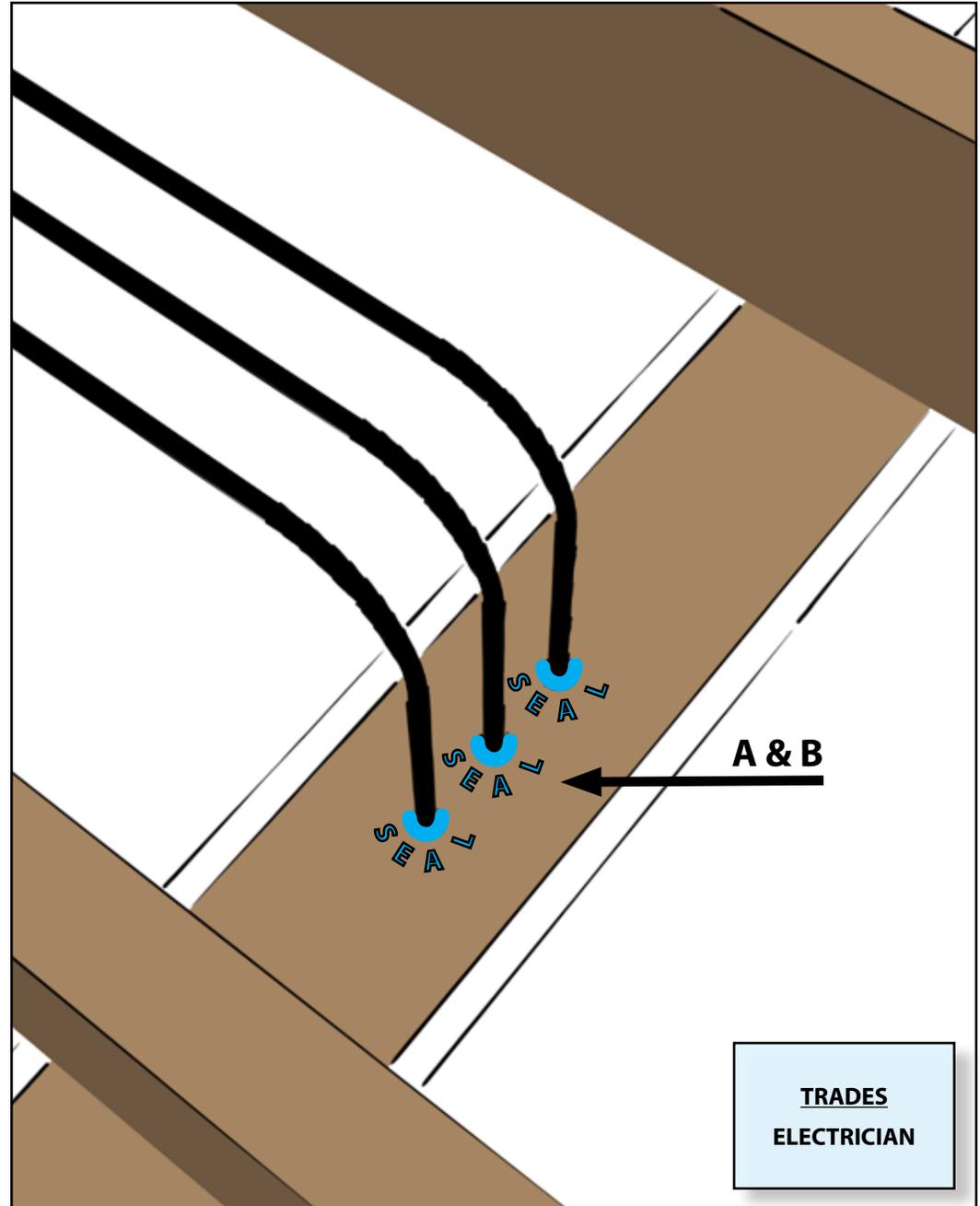
B. Fibrous insulation is not an air barrier and cannot be used for sealing holes.

Neatly cut holes have been properly sealed with foam.

DETAIL 5.1.3

Electrical wiring

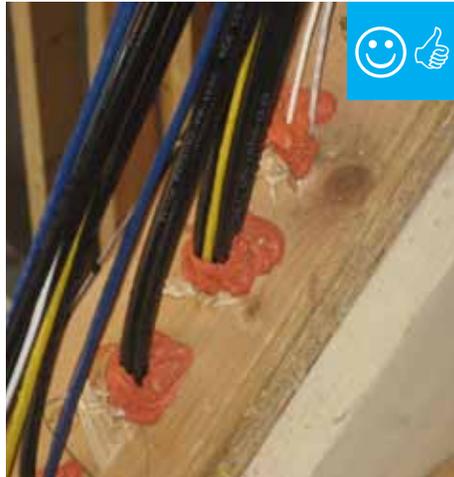
- A. Using a saw or drill, cleanly cut all penetrating holes no more than 1 inch larger in diameter than the penetrating object to allow for proper air sealing.
- B. Seal all gaps, and holes to unconditioned space with caulk or foam. Fibrous insulation is not an air barrier and cannot be used for sealing gaps.



TRADES
ELECTRICIAN



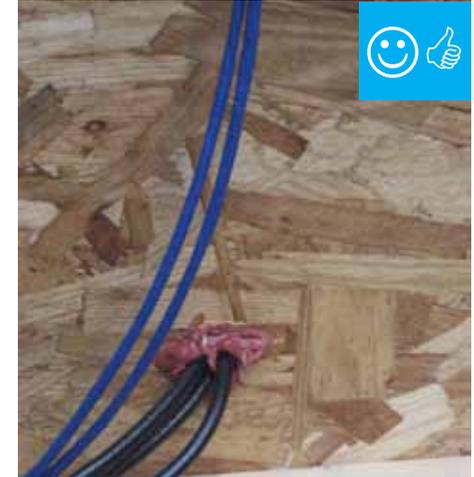
A. Holes have been cut excessively larger than needed making it difficult to seal.



Wiring penetrations have been neatly sealed with foam.



A. Hole was not neatly cut with a saw making it difficult to seal.



Wiring penetrations have been neatly sealed with foam.



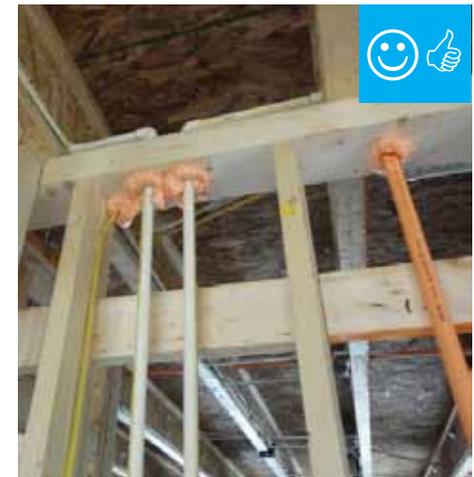
B. Hole has not been air sealed.



Wiring penetrations have been neatly sealed with foam.



B. Fibrous insulation is not an air barrier and cannot be used for sealing holes.



Neatly cut hole has been properly sealed with foam.

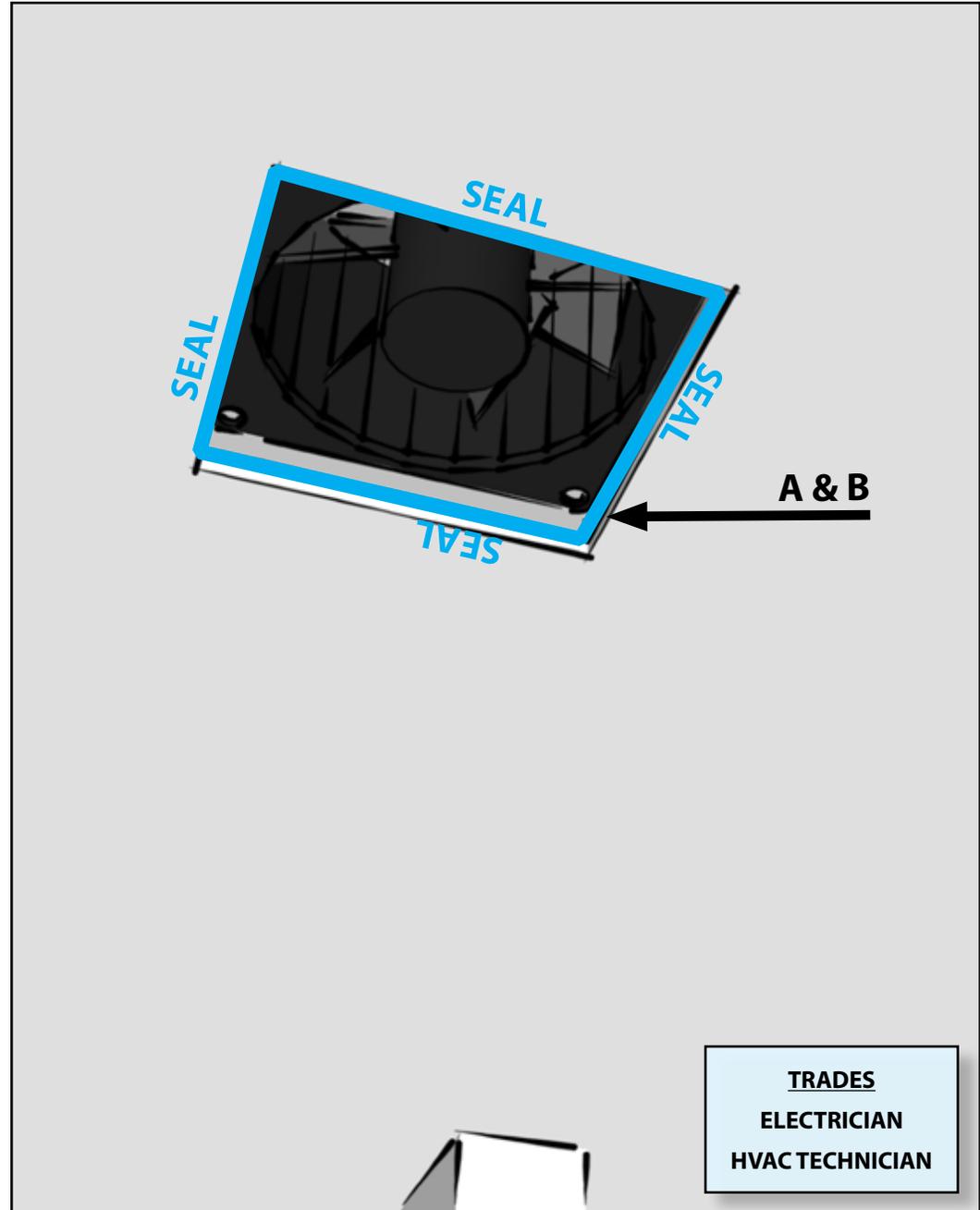
5 AIR SEALING

1 PENETRATIONS, GAPS, AND HOLES TO UNCONDITIONED SPACE FULLY SEALED

DETAIL 5.1.4

Bathroom and kitchen exhaust fans

- A. Using a saw or drill, cleanly cut all penetrating holes no more than 1 inch larger in diameter than the penetrating object to allow for proper air sealing.
- B. Seal all gaps, and holes to unconditioned space with caulk or foam. Fibrous insulation is not an air barrier and cannot be used for sealing gaps.



TRADES
ELECTRICIAN
HVAC TECHNICIAN

5 AIR SEALING

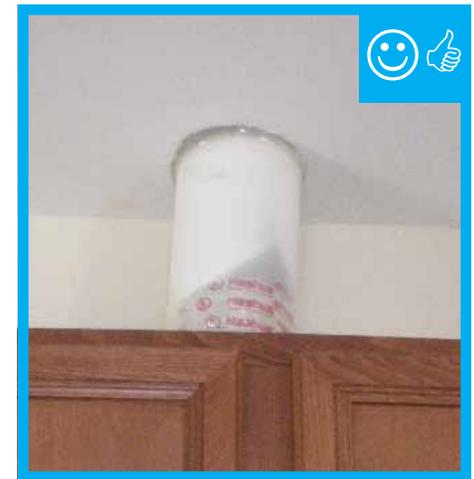
1 PENETRATIONS, GAPS, AND HOLES TO UNCONDITIONED SPACE FULLY SEALED



A. Roughly cut hole that is larger than the fan making it difficult to seal.

Cleanly cut and properly sized hole.

A.



B. Roughly cut hole that is larger than the fan making it difficult to seal.

Fan with a cleanly cut and properly sized hole has been air sealed to drywall.

B. Kitchen exhaust has not been air sealed.

Kitchen exhaust penetration has been sealed with caulk.

DETAIL 5.1.5

Recessed lighting fixtures adjacent to unconditioned space ICAT labeled and fully gasketed. Also, if in insulated ceiling without attic above, exterior surface of fixture insulated to $\geq R-10$ in CZ 4 and higher to minimize condensation potential.

- A. Install ICAT labeled recessed lighting fixtures.
- B. Seal all gaps, and holes to unconditioned space with caulk or foam.
- C. Install a proper trim kit with a gasket.



5 AIR SEALING

1 PENETRATIONS, GAPS, AND HOLES TO UNCONDITIONED SPACE FULLY SEALED



A. Non ICAT recessed light installed.

ICAT labeled recessed light with trim kit installed.

A. Non ICAT recessed light installed.

ICAT labeled recessed light installed but still needs gasket.



B. Recessed can light has not been sealed to drywall.

Recessed can light penetration sealed with caulk to drywall.

C. No gasket installed.

ICAT recessed light sprayed with foam to act as gasket against the drywall.

5 AIR SEALING

1 PENETRATIONS, GAPS, AND HOLES TO UNCONDITIONED SPACE FULLY SEALED

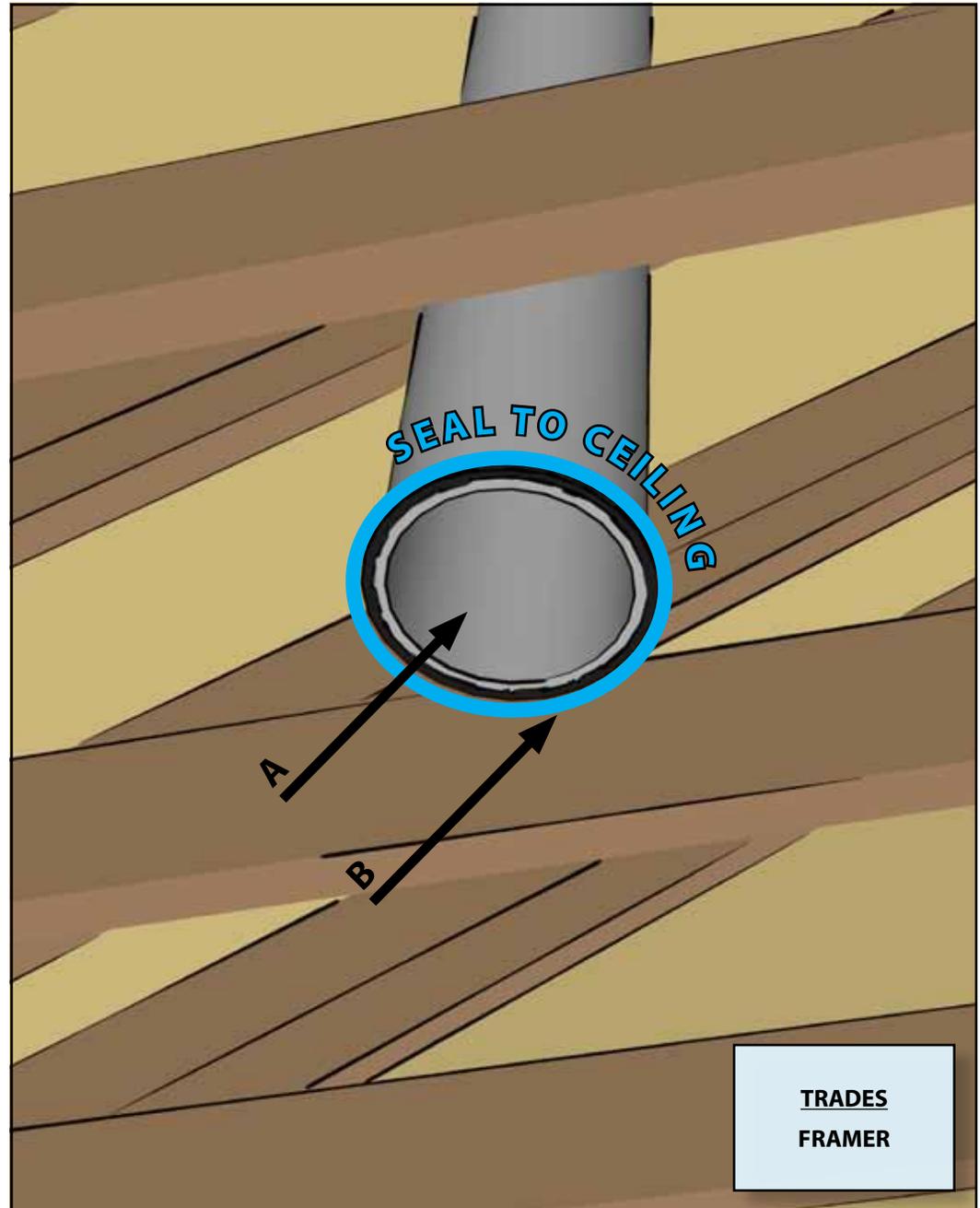
DETAIL 5.1.6²²

Light tubes adjacent to unconditioned space include lens separating unconditioned and conditioned space and are fully gasketed

- A. Seal all gaps, and holes to unconditioned space with caulk or foam.
- B. Install a proper lens kit with a gasket.
- C. If the light tube does not have a lens kit with a gasket, install a light tube with at least R-6 insulation around the length of the tube.

FOOTNOTES

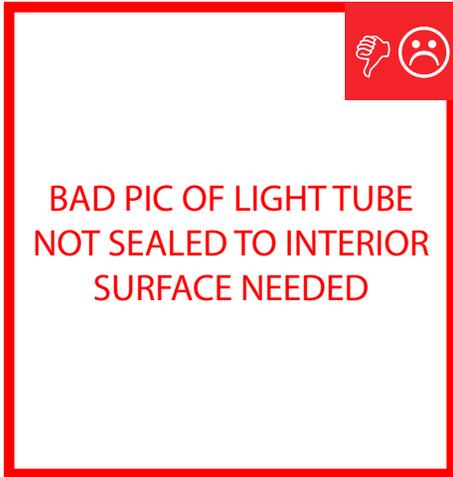
22. Light tubes that do not include a gasketed lens are required to be sealed and insulated \geq R-6 for the length of the tube.



**TRADES
FRAMER**

5 AIR SEALING

1 PENETRATIONS, GAPS, AND HOLES TO UNCONDITIONED SPACE FULLY SEALED



BAD PIC OF LIGHT TUBE
NOT SEALED TO INTERIOR
SURFACE NEEDED



GOOD PIC OF PROPERLY
SEALED LIGHT TUBE
NEEDED



BAD PIC OF LIGHT TUBE
W/O LENS KIT GASKET
AND LESS THAN R-6 OR NO
INSULATION NEEDED



GOOD PIC OF LIGHT TUBE
WITH LENS KIT GASKET
NEEDED

A.

B.



BAD PIC OF LIGHT TUBE
W/O GASKET AND
LESS THAN R-6 OR NO-
INSULATION AROUND TUBE
NEEDED



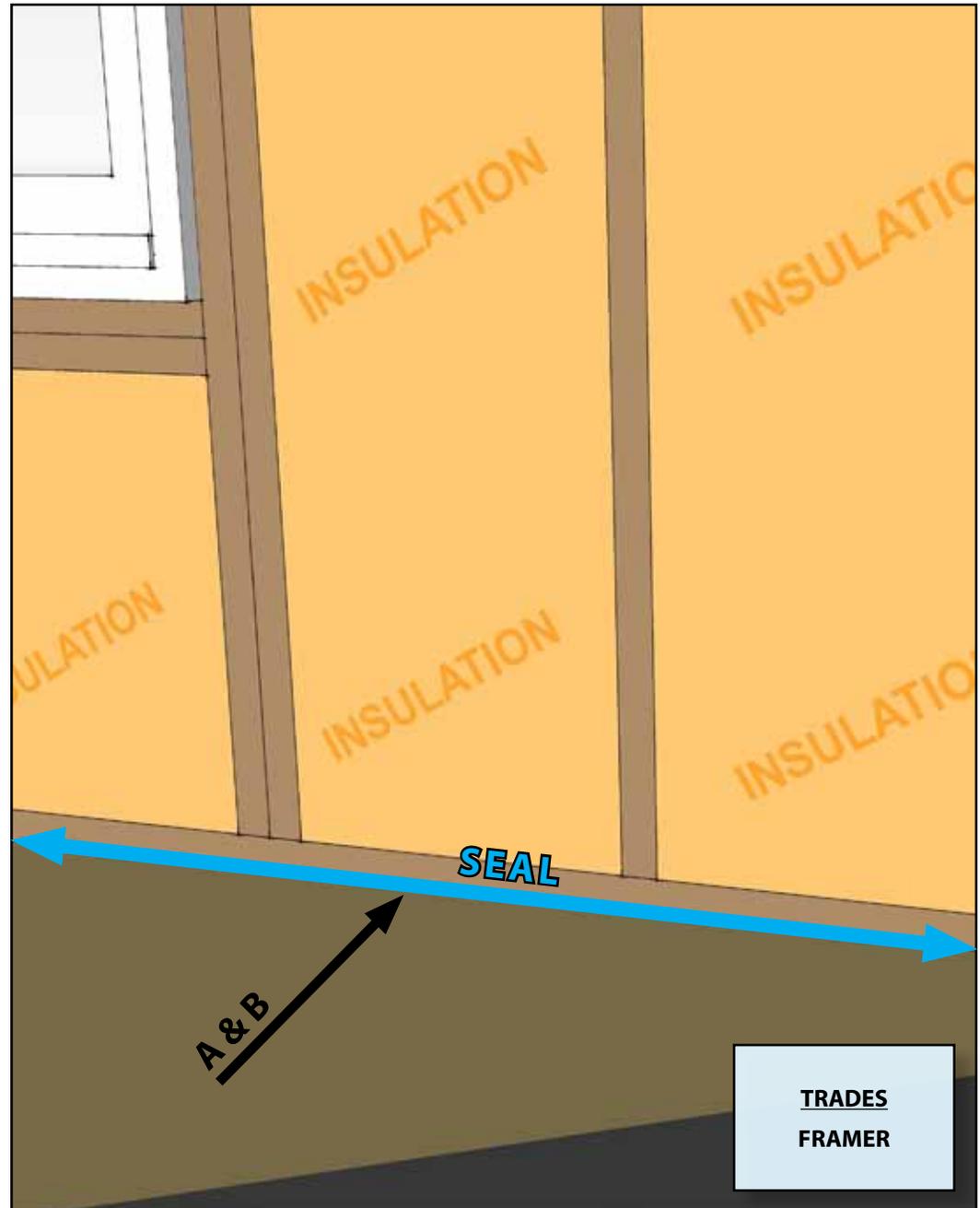
GOOD PIC OF LIGHT TUBE
W/O GASKET AND R-6
OR GREATER INSULATION
AROUND TUBE NEEDED

C.

DETAIL 5.2.1

All sill plates adjacent to conditioned space sealed to foundation or sub-floor with caulk. Foam gasket also placed beneath sill plate if resting atop concrete or masonry and adjacent to conditioned space

- A. Locate all sill plates of all exterior walls, common walls, and vertical members at foundation step downs.
- B. Install a gasket to prevent air leakage and seal all exterior wall sill plates to the sub-floor or foundation to prevent air leakage.



**TRADES
FRAMER**



A. No foam gasket or air seal between sill plate and masonry foundation.



Foam gasket installed between sill plate and foundation.



A. Caulk is too far from sill plate to properly air seal.



Sill plate was sprayed with foam prior to installation atop foundation.



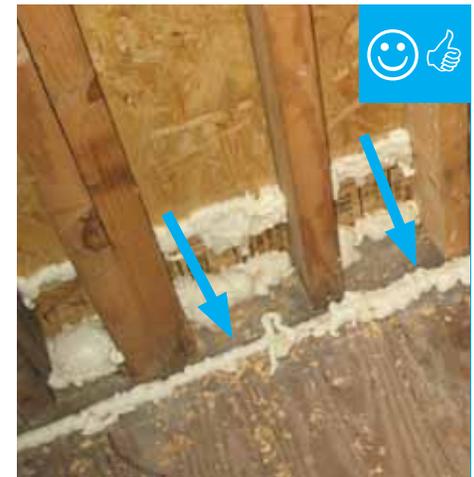
B. No foam gasket or air seal beneath sill plate.



Foam gasket installed beneath sill plate.



B. Foam sprayed at exterior sheathing and sill plate connection leaving gaps beneath sill plate.

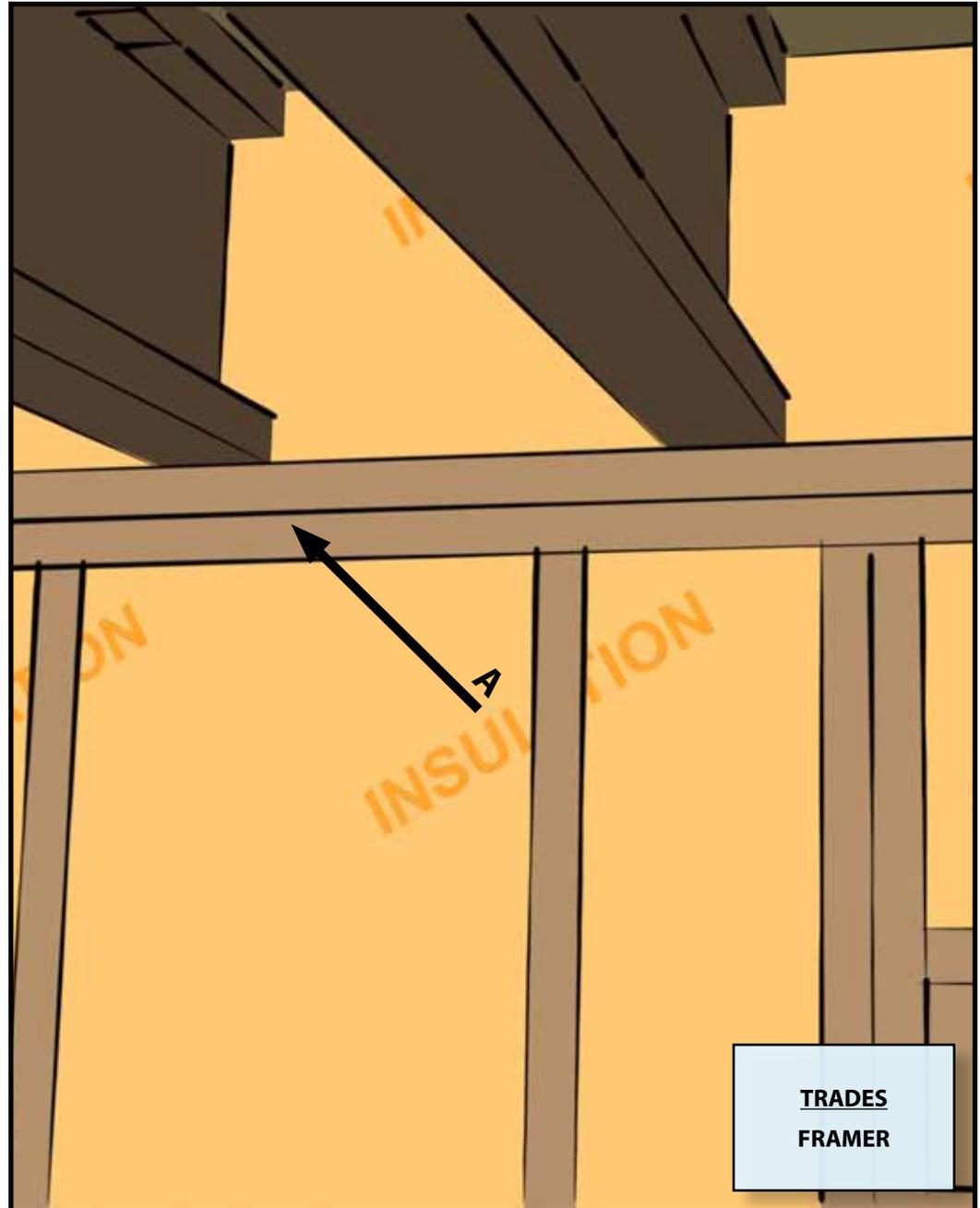


Installed foamed exterior sheathing intersection as well as the sill plate to sub-floor connection.

DETAIL 5.2.2

At top of walls adjoining unconditioned spaces, continuous top plates or sealed blocking using caulk, foam, or equivalent material

- A. Install a continuous top plate at all full height walls.
- B. Where there is no continuous top plate, install blocking and seal.



5 AIR SEALING

2 CRACKS IN THE BUILDING ENVELOPE FULLY SEALED



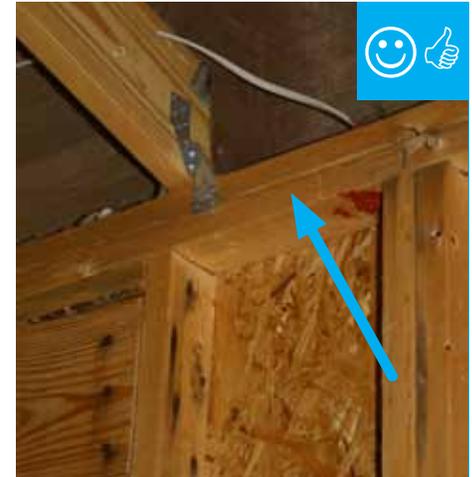
BAD PIC OF NOT CONTINUOUS TOP PLATE NEEDED



Continuous top plate installed.



BAD PIC OF NOT CONTINUOUS TOP PLATE NEEDED



Continuous top plate installed.



B. Wall from above without top plate or blocking installed.



Blocking installed and air sealed instead of continuous top plate.



BAD PIC OF FURRED WALL WITHOUT TOP PLATE NEEDED

B.



GOOD PIC OF FURRED WALL WITH TOP PLATE NEEDED

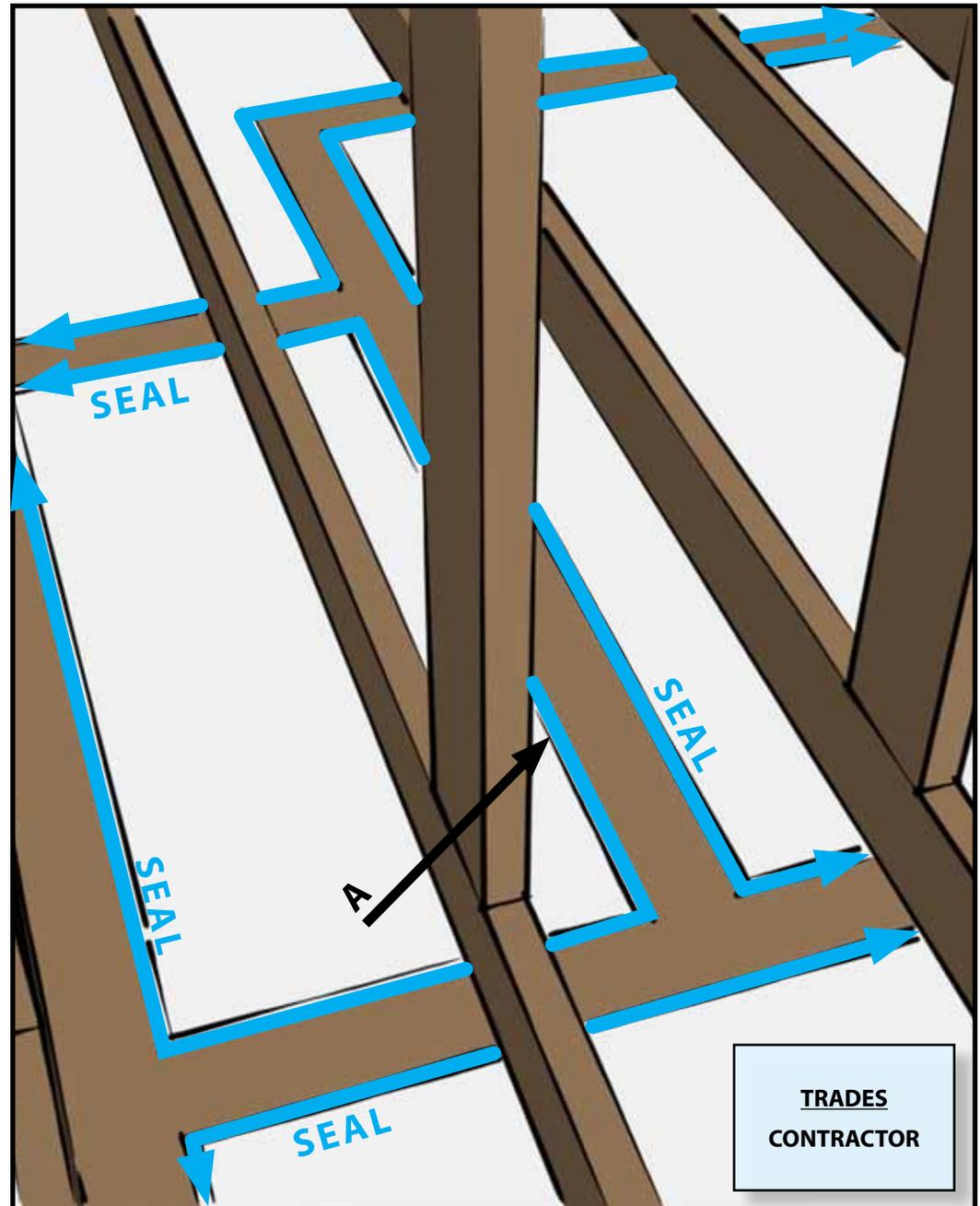
DETAIL 5.2.3

Sheetrock sealed to top plate at all attic/wall interfaces using caulk, foam, or equivalent material. Either apply sealant directly between sheetrock and top plate or to the seam between the two from the attic above. Construction adhesive shall not be used

A. Before insulating the attic, seal all top plate to interior cladding connections with latex foam or caulk to stop air leakage between conditioned and unconditioned space.

OR

B. Before installing drywall, use spray foam sealant or gasket product on top plate to air seal once drywall is installed. If this method is used, make sure foam/gasket remains intact during drywall installation.





A. Top plate to drywall connection not sealed.



Top plate to drywall connection sealed from attic with foam.



A. Top plate to drywall connection not sealed.



Top plate to drywall connection sealed from attic with caulk.



A. Top plate to drywall connection not sealed.



Top plate to drywall connection sealed from attic with foam sealant.



B.



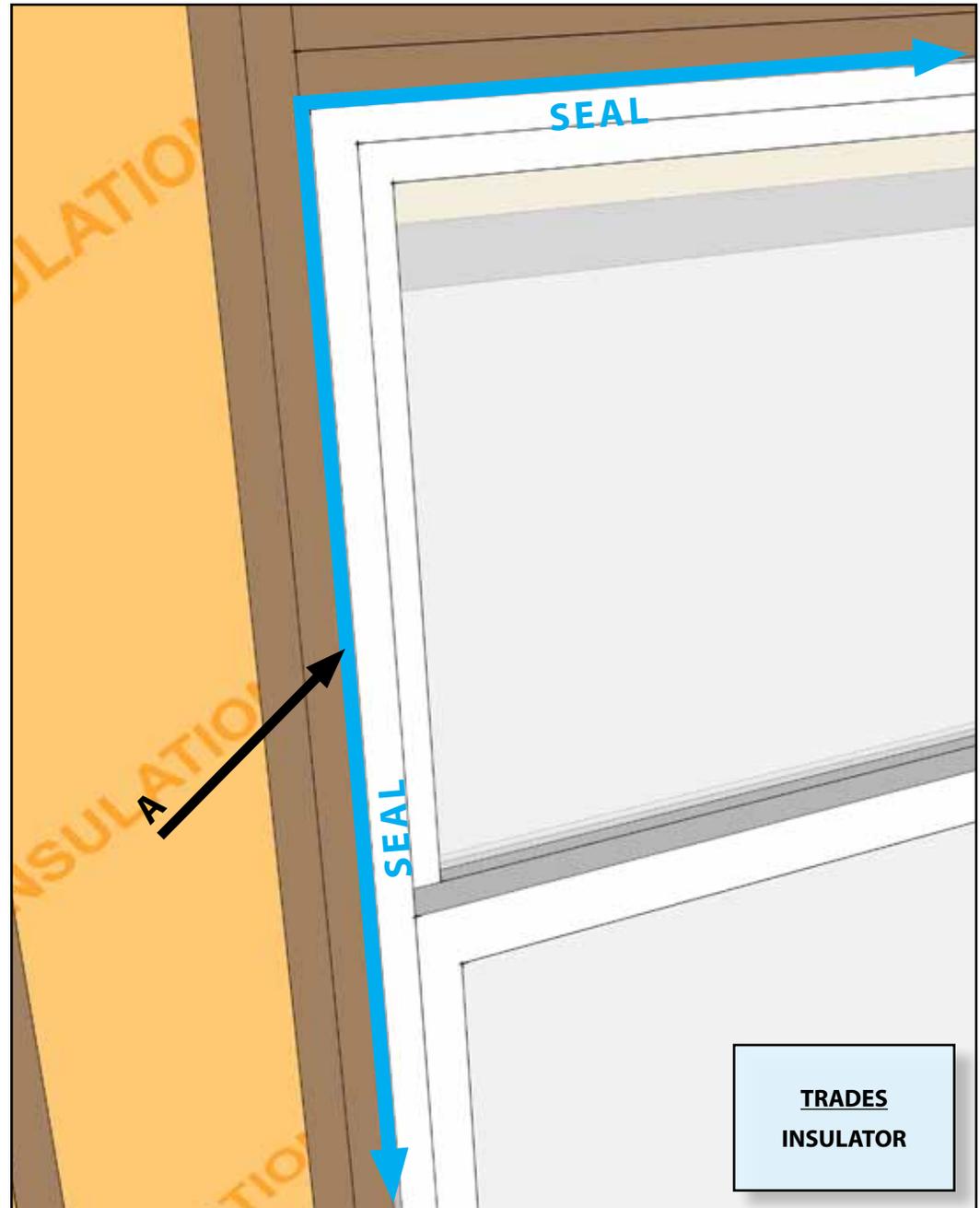
DETAIL 5.2.4²³

Rough opening around windows and exterior doors sealed with caulk or foam

- A. Install backer rod or low-expansion foam in openings around windows and doors.
- B. Fibrous insulation is not an air barrier and cannot be used for sealing gaps.
- C. Avoid using typical expansion foam as it might interfere with the functioning of the window or door.

FOOTNOTES

23. In Climate Zones 1 through 3, stucco over rigid insulation tightly sealed to windows and doors shall be considered equivalent to sealing rough openings with caulk or foam.



**TRADES
INSULATOR**



A. Rough opening around window not air sealed



Rough opening around window has been filled with backer-rod to air seal.



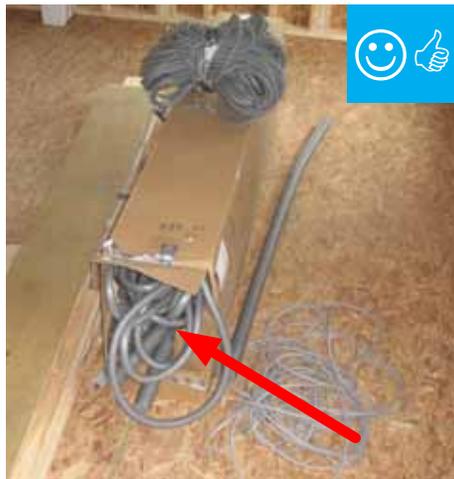
B. Fibrous insulation is not an air barrier and cannot be used to air seal openings.



Rough opening around window has been filled with low-expansion foam to air seal.



C.

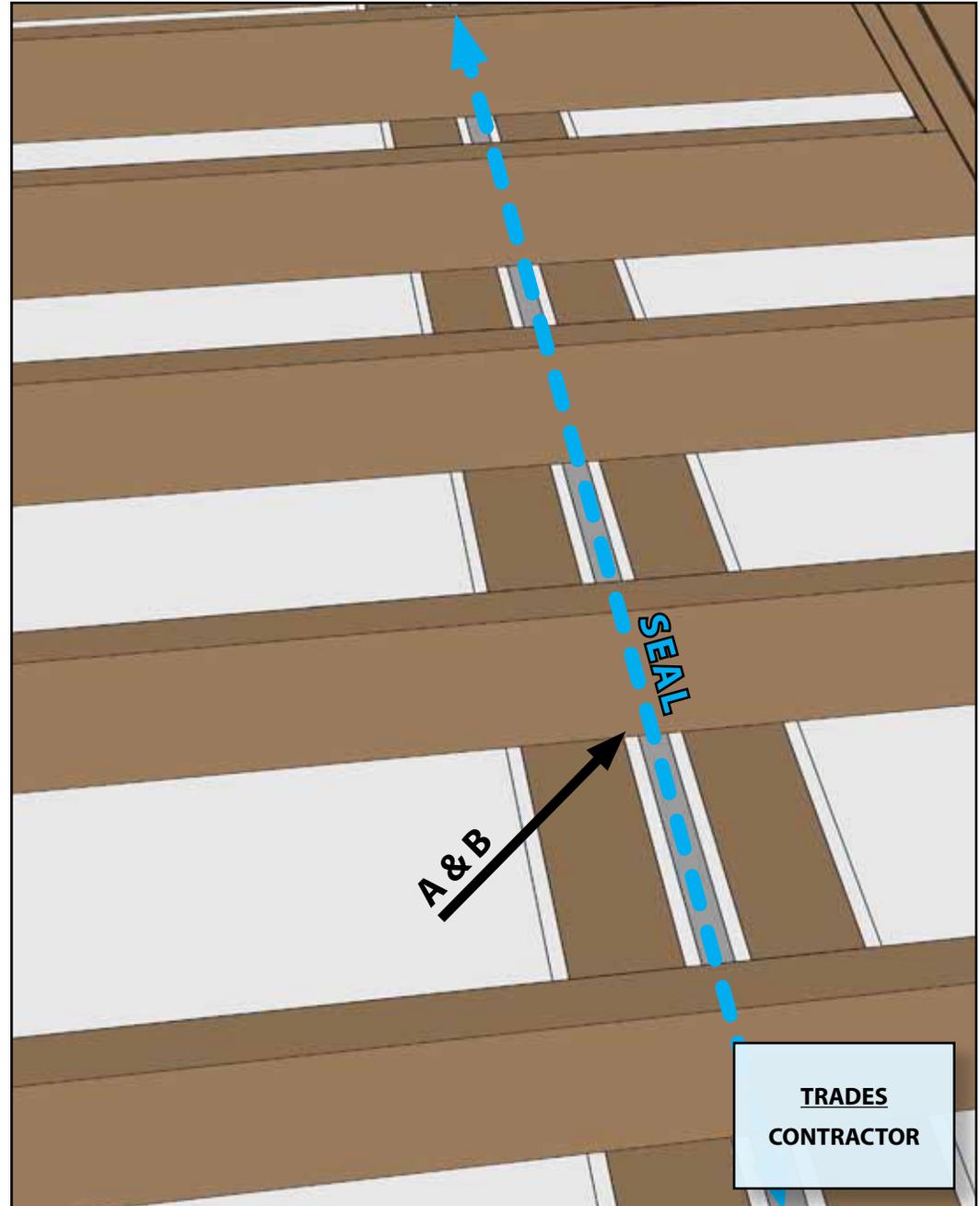


Backer-rod is a foam product available in various diameters that can be used to air seal openings around doors and windows.

DETAIL 5.2.5

Marriage joints between modular home modules at all exterior boundary conditions fully sealed with gasket and foam

- A. Install a gasket along the entire seam of the exterior boundary where modules are attached together.
- B. When modules are in place, seal the edge of the gasket to the module.



5 AIR SEALING

2 CRACKS IN THE BUILDING ENVELOPE FULLY SEALED



A. No gasket installed at marriage wall connection prior to assembly.

Gasket installed at marriage wall connection prior to assembling modules.

A. No gasket installed at marriage wall connection prior to assembly.

Gasket installed at marriage wall connection prior to assembling modules.



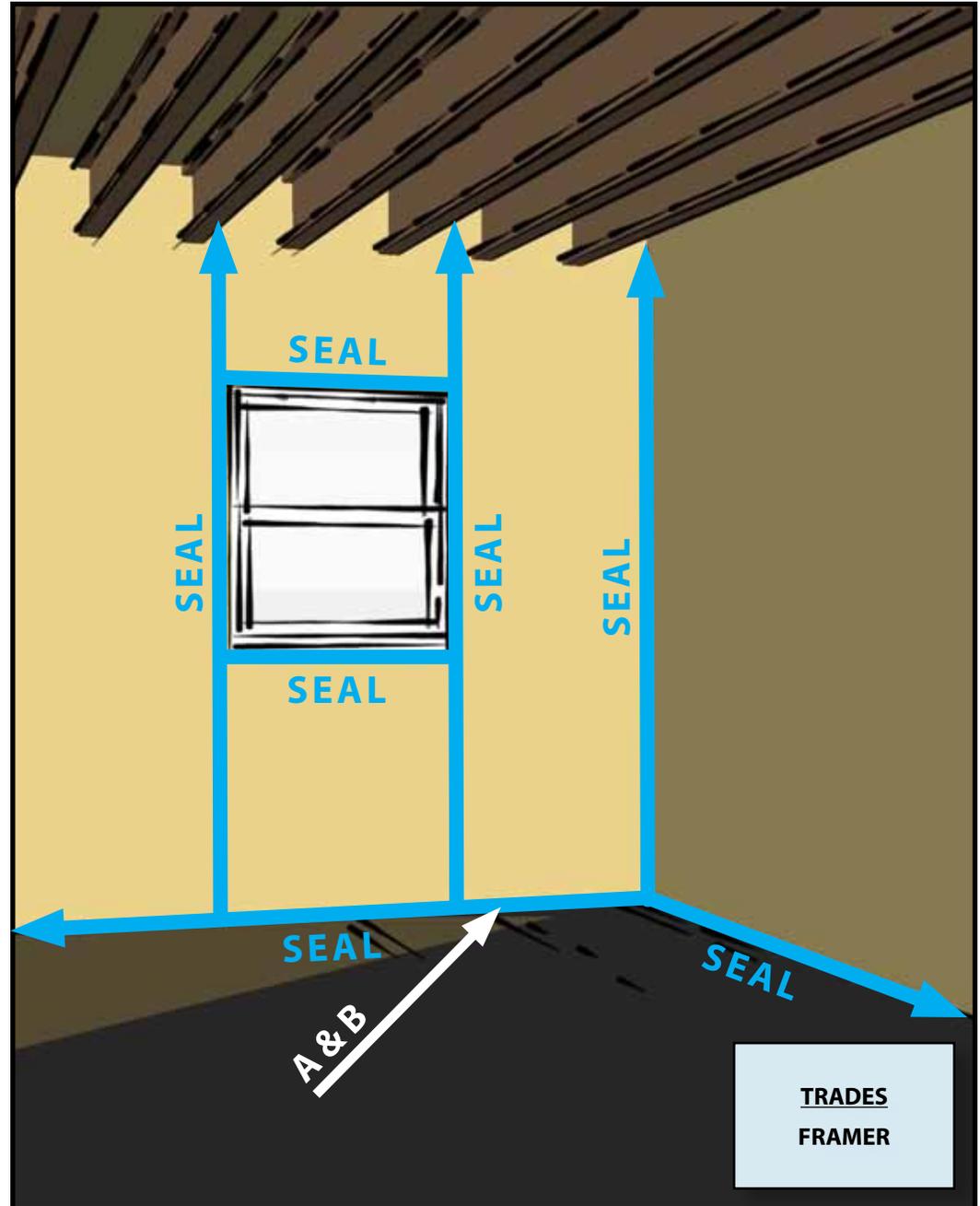
B.

B.

DETAIL 5.2.6

All seams between Structural Insulated Panels (SIPs) foamed and/or taped per manufacturer's instructions

- A. Apply manufacturer-approved sealant inside the joints of all panels and at sub-floor or foundation connections.
- B. When applying tape to walls, center on joints and provide overlap of tape to meet manufacturer's specifications.
- C. When applying tape to roof panels, start from the lowest point of the panel and continue upward.



5 AIR SEALING

2 CRACKS IN THE BUILDING ENVELOPE FULLY SEALED



A.

B.



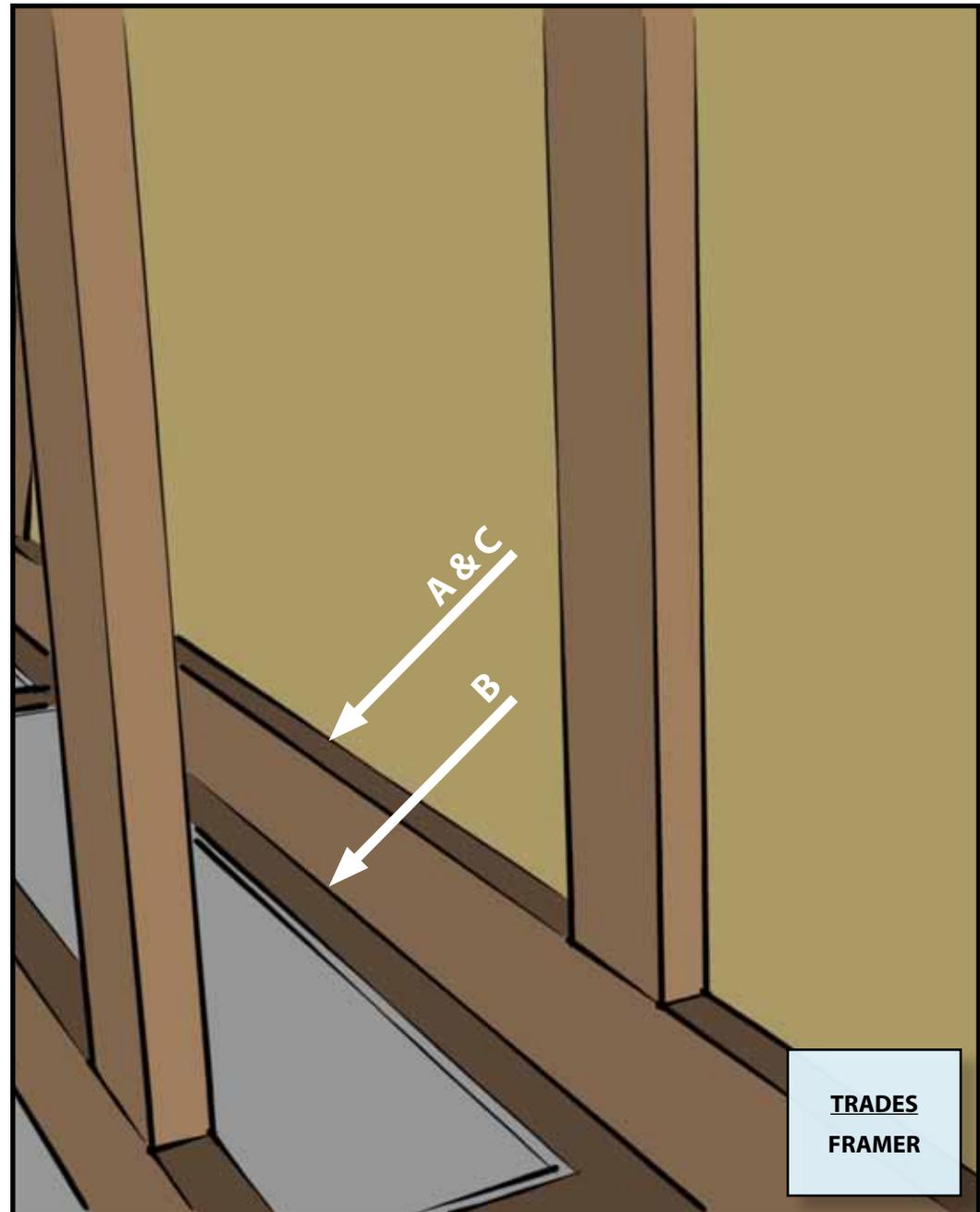
C.

C.

DETAIL 5.2.7

In multifamily buildings, the gap between the drywall shaft wall (i.e. common wall) and the structural framing between units fully sealed at all exterior boundaries

- A. The gap between walls must be declared an approved assembly before being air sealed.
- B. Seal the bottom plate to sub-floor.
- C. Seal the bottom plate to sheathing connection.
- D. Seal gap between units from exterior at all common wall locations with caulk, foam, or equivalent material. (Typically fire rated foam is required by code).



5 AIR SEALING

2 CRACKS IN THE BUILDING ENVELOPE FULLY SEALED



A. Air leakage path in a common wall.

Approved common assembly installed.

B./C. Common wall sheathing not properly fastened or sealed.

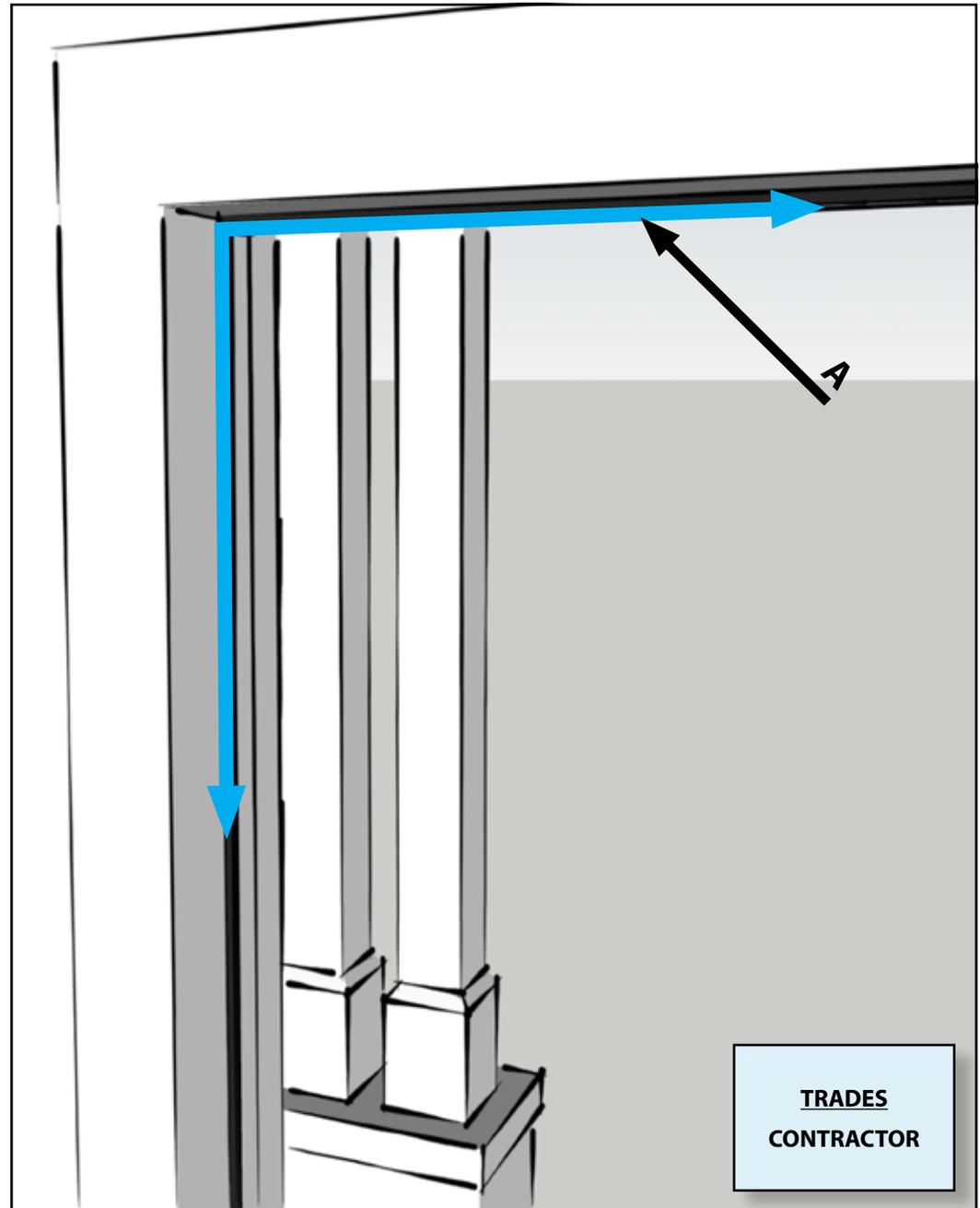


D.

DETAIL 5.3.1

Doors adjacent to unconditioned space (e.g., attics, garages, basements) or ambient conditions gasketed or made substantially air-tight

- A. Install a continuous gasket, such as weather stripping, around all exterior door openings.



**TRADES
CONTRACTOR**

THERMAL ENCLOSURE SYSTEM RATER CHECKLIST

5 AIR SEALING

3 OTHER OPENINGS

ENERGY STAR



A. There is visible light around the door because no weather stripping has been installed.

Weather stripping has been installed and remains in contact once door is closed.



B.



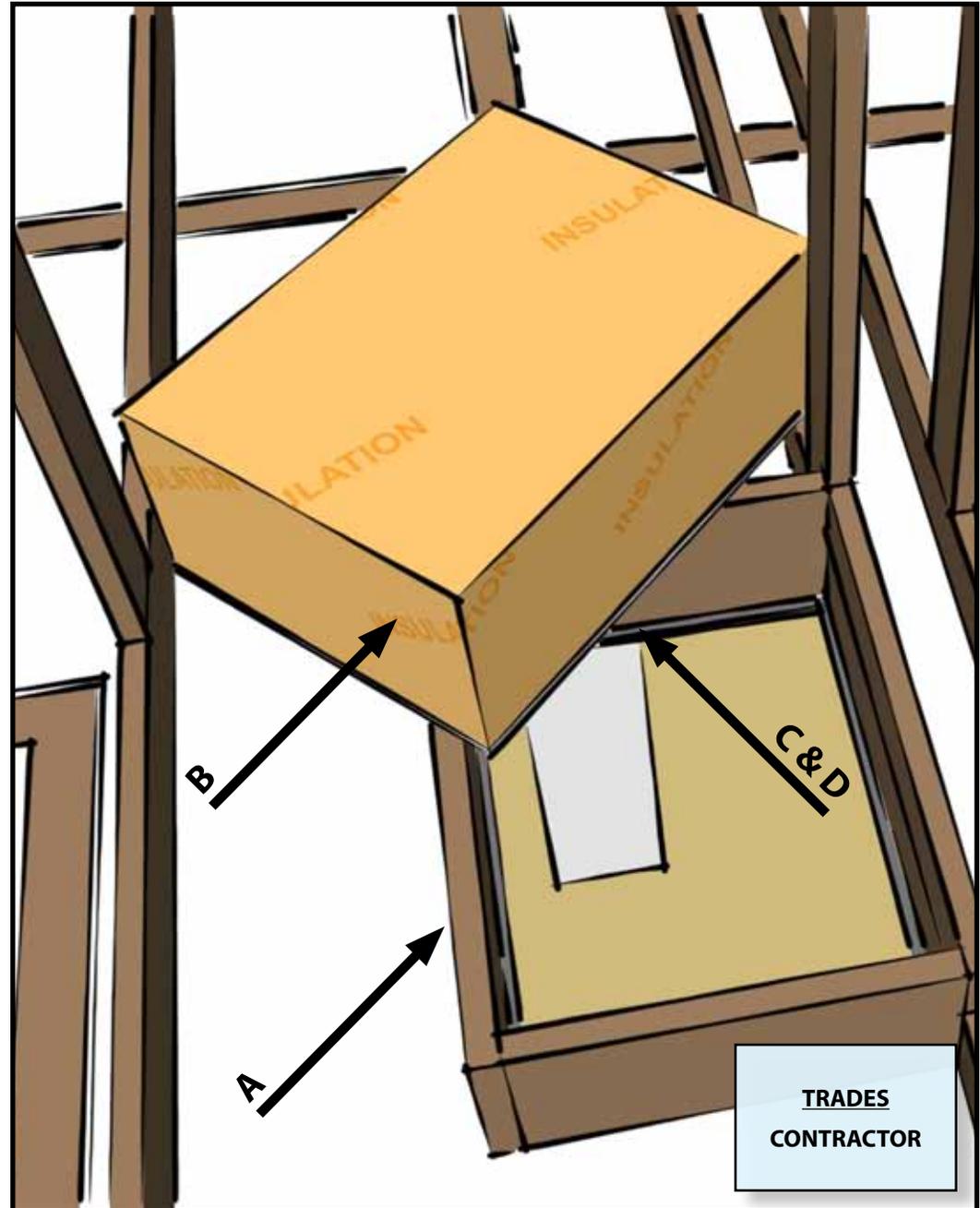
DETAIL 5.3.2 ²⁴

Attic access panels and drop-down stairs equipped with a durable $\geq R-10$ insulated cover that is gasketed (i.e., not caulked) to produce continuous air seal when occupant is not accessing the attic

- A. If installing ceiling access to the attic, building science experts recommend installing additional blocking to create insulation dams.
- B. Install an attic access panel that is equipped with an insulated cover to meet or exceed R-10.
- C. Seal all gaps, and holes to unconditioned space with caulk or foam.
- D. Install a continuous gasket around the attic access panel.

FOOTNOTES

24. Examples of durable covers include, but are not limited to, pre-fabricated covers with integral insulation, rigid foam adhered to cover with adhesive, or batt insulation mechanically fastened to the cover (e.g., using bolts, metal wire, or metal strapping).



THERMAL ENCLOSURE SYSTEM RATER CHECKLIST

5 AIR SEALING

3 OTHER OPENINGS



A. No blocking installed to prevent attic insulation from falling into stairs and opening.

Blocking has been installed around the perimeter of this attic access to prevent insulation falling into the house.

B. Drop down stairs do not have an insulation cover installed.



B. Attic access panel does not have an insulation cover installed.

Attic access hatch has been properly insulated by attaching a fiberglass batt, gasketed, and opening has blocking.

C./D. There is no weather stripping or gasket around the attic stair hatch.

From inside attic: this attic access door has a foam and rubber weather-stripping installed that remains in contact when closed.

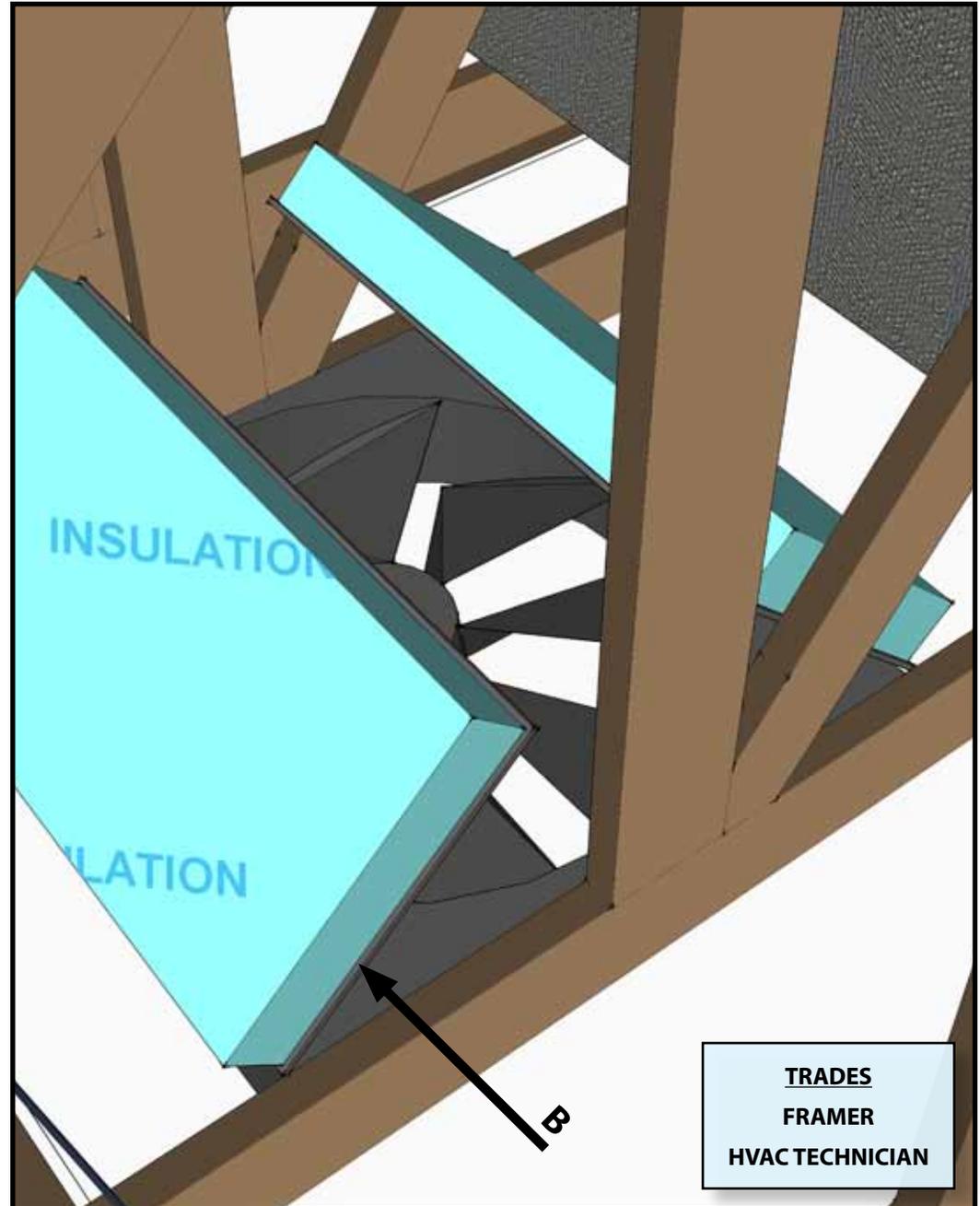
DETAIL 5.3.3 ²⁴

Whole-house fans equipped with a durable \geq R-10 insulated cover that is gasketed and either installed on the house side or mechanically operated

- A. Install a whole-house fan that is equipped with an insulated cover to meet or exceed R-10.
- B. Install an insulated and gasketed cover on the house side or install one that is mechanically operated.
- C. Seal all gaps, and holes to unconditioned space with caulk or foam.
- D. Whole-house fans are most effective in climates with hot days, cool nights and relatively low humidity.

FOOTNOTES

24. Examples of durable covers include, but are not limited to, pre-fabricated covers with integral insulation, rigid foam adhered to cover with adhesive, or batt insulation mechanically fastened to the cover (e.g., using bolts, metal wire, or metal strapping).



TRADES
FRAMER
HVAC TECHNICIAN

THERMAL ENCLOSURE SYSTEM RATER CHECKLIST

5 AIR SEALING

3 OTHER OPENINGS

ENERGY STAR



GOOD PIC OF WHOLE HOUSE FAN WITH INSULATED COVER NEEDED

A. Whole house fan installed without an insulated cover.



BAD PIC OF WHOLE HOUSE FAN WITHOUT GASKET/ LOUVERS WITH GAPS FROM INSIDE HOUSE NEEDED

B.



GOOD PIC OF GASKETED WHOLE HOUSE FAN NEEDED



GOOD PIC OF AIR SEALING WHOLE HOUSE FAN NEEDED

C. Whole house fan installed with holes in surrounding platform that need to be air sealed.

ALL FOOTNOTES

1. At the discretion of the Rater, the builder may verify up to eight items specified in this checklist. When exercised, the builder's responsibility will be formally acknowledged by the builder signing off on the checklist for the item(s) that they verified.
2. For Prescriptive Path: All windows, doors, and skylights shall meet or exceed ENERGY STAR Program Requirements for Residential Windows, Doors, and Skylights – Version 5.0 as outlined at www.energystar.gov/windows. For Performance Path: All windows, doors, and skylights shall meet or exceed the component U-factor and SHGC requirements specified in the 2009 IECC – Table 402.1.1. If no NFRC rating is noted on the window or in product literature (e.g., for site-built fenestration), select the U-factor and SHGC value from tables 4 and 14, respectively, in 2005 ASHRAE Fundamentals, Chapter 31. Select the highest U-factor and SHGC value among the values listed for the known window characteristics (e.g., frame type, number of panes, glass color, and presence of low-e coating). Note that the U-factor requirement applies to all fenestration while the SHGC only applies to the glazed portion. The following exceptions apply:
 - a. An area-weighted average of fenestration products shall be permitted to satisfy the U-factor requirements;
 - b. An area-weighted average of fenestration products $\geq 50\%$ glazed shall be permitted to satisfy the SHGC requirements;
 - c. 15 square feet of glazed fenestration per dwelling unit shall be exempt from the U-factor and SHGC requirements, and shall be excluded from area-weighted averages calculated using a) and b), above;
 - d. One side-hinged opaque door assembly up to 24 square feet in area shall be exempt from the U-factor requirements and shall be excluded from area-weighted averages calculated using a) and b), above;
 - e. Fenestration utilized as part of a passive solar design shall be exempt from the U-factor and SHGC requirements, and shall be excluded from area-weighted averages calculated using a) and b), above. Exempt windows shall be facing within 45 degrees of true south and directly coupled to thermal storage mass that has a heat capacity $> 20 \text{ btu/ft}^3 \times \text{°F}$ and provided in a ratio of at least 3 sq. ft. per sq. ft. of south facing fenestration. Generally, thermal mass materials will be at least 2" thick.
3. Insulation levels in a home shall meet or exceed the component insulation requirements in the 2009 IECC - Table 402.1.1. The following exceptions apply:
 - a. Steel-frame ceilings, walls, and floors shall meet the insulation requirements of the 2009 IECC – Table 402.2.5. In CZ 1 and 2, the continuous insulation requirements in this table shall be permitted to be reduced to R-3 for steel-frame wall assemblies with studs spaced at 24" on center. This exception shall not apply if the alternative calculations in d) are used;
 - b. For ceilings with attic spaces, R-30 shall satisfy the requirement for R-38 and R-38 shall satisfy the requirement for R-49 wherever the full height of uncompressed insulation at the lower R-value extends over the wall top plate at the eaves. This exemption shall not apply if the alternative calculations in d) are used;
 - c. For ceilings without attic spaces, R-30 shall satisfy the requirement for any required value above R-30 if the design of the roof/ceiling assembly does not provide sufficient space for the required insulation value. This exemption shall be limited to 500 square ft. or 20% of the total insulated ceiling area, whichever is less. This exemption shall not apply if the alternative calculations in d) are used;
 - d. An alternative equivalent U-factor or total UA calculation may also be used to demonstrate compliance, as follows:
 - i. An assembly with a U-factor equal or less than specified in 2009 IECC Table 402.1.3 complies.

- ii. A total building thermal envelope UA that is less than or equal to the total UA resulting from the U-factors in Table 402.1.3 also complies. The insulation levels of all non-fenestration components (i.e., ceilings, walls, floors, and slabs) can be traded off using the UA approach under both the Prescriptive and the Performance path. Note that fenestration products (i.e., windows, skylights, doors) shall not be included in this calculation. Also, note that while ceiling and slab insulation can be included in trade-off calculations, the R-value must meet or exceed the minimum values listed in items 4.1 through 4.3 of the checklist to provide an effective thermal break, regardless of the UA tradeoffs calculated. The UA calculation shall be done using a method consistent with the ASHRAE Handbook of Fundamentals and shall include the thermal bridging effects of framing materials. The calculation for a steel-frame envelope assembly shall use the ASHRAE zone method or a method providing equivalent results, and not a series-parallel path calculation method.
4. Consistent with the 2009 IECC, slab edge insulation is only required for slab-on-grade floors with a floor surface less than 12 inches below grade. Slab insulation shall extend to the top of the slab to provide a complete thermal break. If the top edge of the insulation is installed between the exterior wall and the edge of the interior slab, it shall be permitted to be cut at a 45-degree angle away from the exterior wall.
5. Where an insulated wall separates a garage, patio, porch, or other unconditioned space from the conditioned space of the house, slab insulation shall also be installed at this interface to provide a thermal break between the conditioned and unconditioned slab. Where specific details cannot meet this requirement, partners shall provide the detail to EPA to request an exemption prior to the home's qualification. EPA will compile exempted details and work with industry to develop feasible details for use in future revisions to the program. A list of currently exempted details is available at: www.energystar.gov/slabedge.
6. For purposes of this checklist, an air barrier is defined as any durable solid material that blocks air flow between conditioned space and unconditioned space, including necessary sealing to block excessive air flow at edges and seams and adequate support to resist positive and negative pressures without displacement or damage. EPA recommends, but does not require, rigid air barriers. Open-cell or closed-cell foam shall have a finished thickness $\geq 5.5"$ or $1.5"$, respectively, to qualify as an air barrier unless the manufacturer indicates otherwise. If flexible air barriers such as house wrap are used, they shall be fully sealed at all seams and edges and supported using fasteners with caps or heads $\geq 1"$ diameter unless otherwise indicated by the manufacturer. Flexible air barriers shall not be made of kraft paper, paper-based products, or other materials that are easily torn. If polyethylene is used, its thickness shall be ≥ 6 mil.
7. EPA highly recommends, but does not require, inclusion of an interior air barrier at band joists in Climate Zone 4 through 8.
8. Examples of supports necessary for permanent contact include staves for batt insulation or netting for blown-in insulation. Batts that completely fill a cavity enclosed on all six sides may be used to meet this requirement without the need for supports, even though some compression will occur due to the excess insulation, as long as the compressed value meets or exceeds the required insulation level. Specifically, the following batts may be used in six-sided floor cavities: R-19 batts in 2x6 cavities, R-30 batts in 2x8 cavities, R-38 batts in 2x10 cavities, and R-49 batts in 2x12 cavities. For example, in a home that requires R-19 floor insulation, an R-30 batt may be used in a six-sided 2x8 floor cavity.
9. Fully-aligned air barriers may be installed at the exterior surface of the floor cavity in all Climate Zones if the insulation is installed in contact with this exterior air barrier and the perimeter rim and band joists of the floor cavity are also sealed and insulated to comply with the fully-aligned air barrier requirements for walls.
10. All insulated vertical surfaces are considered walls (e.g., exterior walls, knee walls) and must meet the air barrier requirements for walls. All insulated ceiling surfaces, regardless of slope (e.g., cathedral ceilings, tray ceilings, conditioned attic roof decks, flat ceilings, sloped ceilings), must meet the requirements for ceilings.
11. The minimum designated R-values must be achieved regardless of the trade-offs determined using an equivalent U-factor or UA alternative calculation. Note that if the minimum designated values are used, they must be compensated with higher values elsewhere using an equivalent U-factor or UA alternative calculation in order to meet the overall insulation requirements of the 2009 IECC. Also, note that these requirements can be met by using any available strategy, such as a raised-heel truss, alternate framing that provides adequate space, and/or high-density insulation. In Climate Zones 1 through 3, one option that will work for most homes is to use 2x6 framing, an R-21 high-density batt, and a wind baffle that only requires 0.5" of clearance.
12. Up to 10% of the total exterior wall surface area is exempted from the reduced thermal bridging requirements to accommodate intentional designed details (e.g., architectural details such as thermal fins, wing walls, or masonry fireplaces; structural details, such as steel columns). It shall be apparent to the Rater that the exempted

areas are intentional designed details or the exempted area shall be documented in a plan provided by the builder, architect, designer, or engineer. The Rater need not evaluate the necessity of the designed detail to qualify the home.

13. Mass walls utilized as the thermal mass component of a passive solar design (e.g., a Trombe wall) are exempt from this item. To be eligible for this exemption, the passive solar design shall be comprised of the following five components: an aperture or collector, an absorber, thermal mass, a distribution system, and a control system. For more information, see: http://www.energysavers.gov/your_home/designing_remodeling/index.cfm/mytopic=1027

Mass walls that are not part of a passive solar design (e.g., CMU block or log home enclosure) shall either utilize the strategies outlined in Section 4.4 or the pathway in the assembly with the least thermal resistance shall provide > 50% of the applicable component insulation requirement in the 2009 IECC – Table 402.1.1.

14. If used, insulated siding shall be attached directly over a water-resistive barrier and sheathing. In addition, it shall provide the required R-value as demonstrated through either testing in accordance with ASTM C 1363 or by attaining the required R-value at its minimum thickness. Insulated sheathing rated for water protection can be used as a water resistant barrier if all seams are taped and sealed. If non-insulated structural sheathing is used at corners, advanced framing details listed under Item 4.4.5 shall be met for those wall sections.
15. Steel framing shall meet the reduced thermal bridging requirements by complying with Item 4.4.1 of the Checklist.
16. Double-wall framing is defined as any framing method that ensures a continuous layer of insulation covering the studs to at least the R-value required in Section 4.4.1 of the Checklist, such as offset double-stud walls, aligned double-stud walls with continuous insulation between the adjacent stud faces, or single-stud walls with 2x2 or 2x3 cross-framing. In all cases, insulation shall fill the entire wall cavity from the interior to exterior sheathing except at windows, doors, and other penetrations.
17. All exterior corners shall be constructed to allow access for the installation of \geq R-6 insulation that extends to the exterior wall sheathing. Examples of compliance options include standard-density insulation with alternative framing techniques, such as using three studs per corner, or high-density insulation (e.g., spray foam) with standard framing techniques.
18. Header insulation shall be \geq R-3 for wall assemblies with 2x4 framing, or equivalent cavity width, and \geq R-5 for all other assemblies (e.g., with 2x6 framing). Compliance options include continuous rigid insulation sheathing, SIP headers, other

prefabricated insulated headers, single-member or two-member headers with insulation either in between or on one side, or an equivalent assembly, except where a framing plan provided by the builder, architect, designer, or engineer indicates that full-depth solid headers are the only acceptable option. The Rater need not evaluate the structural necessity of the details in the framing plan to qualify the home. Also, the framing plan need only encompass the details in question and not necessarily the entire home. R-value requirement refers to manufacturer's nominal insulation value.

19. Framing at windows shall be limited to a maximum of one pair of king studs and one pair jack studs per window opening to support the header and window sill. Additional jack studs shall be used only as needed for structural support and cripple studs only as needed to maintain on-center spacing of studs.
20. Insulation shall run behind interior/exterior wall intersections using ladder blocking, full length 2"x6" or 1"x6" furring behind the first partition stud, drywall clips, or other equivalent alternative.
21. Vertical framing members shall either be on-center or have an alternative structural purpose (e.g., framing members at the edge of pre-fabricated panels) that is apparent to the Rater or documented in a framing plan provided by the builder, architect, designer, or engineer. The Rater need not evaluate the structural necessity of the details in the framing plan to qualify the home. Also, the framing plan need only encompass the details in question and not necessarily the entire home. No more than 5% of studs may lack an apparent or documented structural purpose, which is equivalent to one vertical stud for every 30 linear feet of wall, assuming 16" o.c. stud spacing.
22. Light tubes that do not include a gasketed lens are required to be sealed and insulated \geq R-6 for the length of the tube.
23. In Climate Zones 1 through 3, stucco over rigid insulation tightly sealed to windows and doors shall be considered equivalent to sealing rough openings with caulk or foam.
24. Examples of durable covers include, but are not limited to, pre-fabricated covers with integral insulation, rigid foam adhered to cover with adhesive, or batt insulation mechanically fastened to the cover (e.g., using bolts, metal wire, or metal strapping).