

## Checklist

### New House

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

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

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

1.

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

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

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2.

#### Does the insulation product meet *New Zealand Standards*?

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

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3.

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

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

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4.

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

Some chemicals such as formaldehyde and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) added during the manufacturing process of some products could contribute to lower levels of indoor air quality.

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5.

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

High density insulation works better at reducing sound transfer between rooms, floors and external noise.

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6.

#### Will insulation be installed to cover ceilings, floors, external walls and the garage?

Building a new home is the best time to install insulation in walls, floors and ceilings to ensure it is energy efficient, comfortable and peaceful. If you are building on a concrete slab, we recommend insulating under and around the slab. Insulating the garage now will also provide flexibility to use it as an additional room in the future.

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7.

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

The Building Code sets different minimum levels of insulation – “R-Values” – for different climates in New Zealand. These are minimum levels only and remember the higher the R-Value the better the energy efficiency of the home.

Always choose the highest R-Value that your budget will allow.

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8.

Have you allowed for acoustic insulation in the internal walls?

Insulating between adjoining rooms such as bathrooms, media rooms and bedrooms will ensure noise transfer between these rooms is absorbed to provide a peaceful home.

The garage is a transition area from your home to the outside, and you or future owners may want to use this as a flexi space for a workshop or rumpus room.

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9.

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

Having appropriate levels of insulation can have a big impact on the amount of time and money you will spend on heating and cooling.

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10.

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

Building a new home is the best time to install insulation in ceilings, floors, internal and external walls. Always choose the highest R-Value that your budget will allow. Consider double layer walls and ceilings, which won't add a lot of extra cost to your build. It will significantly improve the thermal performance by reducing thermal bridging.

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If you or your builder or architect would like any more information on insulation and how it can help you get the most value out of your new home, visit: [www.knaufinsulation.co.nz](http://www.knaufinsulation.co.nz)