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# The facts about cellulose insulation.

The truth is that properly tested and labeled cellulose insulation is a safe, versatile and dependable material for your home.

## What is cellulose insulation?

Cellulose is made of cellulose or wood fibers that have been reprocessed and chemically treated to be used as loose fill thermal insulation. The material is non-toxic, odorless and non-irritating to the touch. Because the material is basically recycled paper, it does not deplete natural resources. In the manufacturing process, cellulose uses far less energy to produce than mineral insulations.

## Is all cellulose insulation the same?

No. Cellulose manufactured by SICM members must measure up to rigid Society standards and meet Federal Specification F-11-515C or current version.

When buying cellulose, be sure it carries the SICM member label or be sure your insulation contractor is using SICM labeled cellulose.



## Why is cellulose the most desirable material for re-insulation?

As the illustration below shows, properly applied cellulose forms total coverage over existing batts or blankets that may have moved or shifted over the years.

In addition, cellulose insulation when installed correctly at the proper settled density continues to provide optimum thermal values year after year. It remains fluffy and retains its "R" value—the standard rating system for measuring resistance to heat flow.



## Can a do-it-yourselfer install cellulose?

Yes, it's relatively simple for a person to install cellulose in an attic—either as an original insulation or over existing insulation. However, it is recommended that the do-it-yourselfer study and follow instructions available from the manufacturer, many public utilities or public libraries.

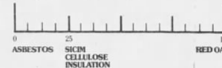
A professional contractor can do the job faster, safer and usually more efficiently—particularly when it comes to insulating or re-insulating existing walls.

## Is cellulose insulation a fire hazard?

No. Not if it's manufactured to Federal Specification F-11-515C, Class 25 and correctly installed. All cellulose with the SICM member label meets this specification.



Cellulose insulation meeting Federal Specification Class 25 F-11-515C carries a flame spread rating of 0.25. Flame spread is a measure of flammability from 0 (subject) to 100 (red oak). The lower the number (rating), the better the resistance to fire. Generally speaking, most of the effects and belongings stored in the average attic would have a flame spread rating of 100 or more. The flame spread rating for having lumber is generally 250 or greater. Near Class 1 in building codes is the same as Class 25.



## Can cellulose insulation corrode metal pipes, wiring or beams?

No. Provided that the cellulose is manufactured to SICM standards. If your cellulose insulation carries the SICM label, it will not corrode metal pipes, wires or beams.

## How does cellulose compare with other loose fill insulation?

The very short fibers that constitute cellulose create a thermal barrier that virtually seals every nook and cranny of insulatable space. And properly installed cellulose does not settle significantly over the years.

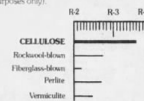
In addition, cellulose is one of the best known sound barriers. People who have had their homes insulated with cellulose are often amazed at the reduction of sounds from the outside heard inside.

## Why cellulose insulation instead of batts or blankets?

Generally, any blown or loose fill insulation should result in a more complete coverage. With batts and blankets, there are normally spaces between the insulating materials and beams or joists (more than loose fill)—which, when multiplied by the number of spaces, can result in considerable heat loss.

## Relative "R" values of leading insulating materials.

The chart below demonstrates the difference in insulating ability of the leading insulators for one inch of blown-in or loose fill insulation—correctly installed cellulose should remain an effective thermal barrier. It clearly demonstrates the superiority of cellulose as an insulating material (for comparison purposes only).



## The four key guidelines for insulation for your home regardless of type or brand.

- 1.** The insulation must provide predictable thermal resistance. In other words, you should know how much insulation or "R" value you can expect for each inch of insulation material and the effective "R" values installed should be comparable.
- 2.** The insulation must not increase the fire hazard. This means the material used should not be any more susceptible to fire than the material that it is used with.
- 3.** The insulation must not adversely affect the structure. It should not be so heavy that it puts abnormal stress on the home or building. And it should not have a corrosive effect on the other materials it is in contact with—like metal or wood beams.
- 4.** The insulation must not adversely affect the occupant's health. The material should be non-irritating to a person's skin and should be non-toxic.

The sooner you insulate, the sooner you start saving energy and money!

SICM supports Federally mandated standards for all insulation materials.

**SOCIETY OF INTERNATIONAL CELLULOSE INSULATION MANUFACTURERS**

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