



# City of Santa Monica Building and Safety Division

## Insulation Guide

**This list is to be used as a general guide.**

**It is not inclusive of all code requirements and inspection criteria.**

**Per California Building (CBC), Residential (CRC) and Energy (CeC) Code  
Codes Available at [www.bsc.ca.gov](http://www.bsc.ca.gov)**

- Review plans for the California Energy Code requirements for the minimum “R” value in walls, ceilings and floors and type of insulation to be used. CeC 150.0 (a-d)
- Seal all floor sill plates and gaps around exterior openings with cement mortar. Make sure all surfaces are clean prior to sealing. CRC 602.3.4.1
- Verify all gaps and voids around pipes, wires, ducts and conduit penetrations in walls, floors and top plates have been filled with insulation and effectively sealed. CeC 110.7
- Insulation must be secured in place to prevent material from coming in contact with flues and vents, and to prevent insulation from blocking attic, under-floor or combustion air vent openings. CBC 720 & CRC 302.14
- Typical methods to secure insulation for a horizontal application include solid wires (friction fit), plastic netting or securing paper or foil faced insulation with staples. Note: In an under-floor application, any paper or foil facing shall be placed against the sub-floor sheathing (conditioned space). In vertical applications with no backing or paper/foil facing, wire shall be installed to secure insulation in place.
- When paper or foil faced insulation is used, the paper or foil shall face the conditioned space and be in contact with the finish material. CBC 720
- Lighting fixtures installed in ceilings of conditioned spaces must be designated ‘air tight’ or ‘AT’ and listed ‘IC’ for insulation contact. CRC 302.14
- Recessed lighting fixtures not listed and labeled “IC” require minimum 3 inches clearance on all sides and NO insulation on the top. Note: *Only “IC” fixtures are permissible where insulation is required for California Energy Code compliance. CRC 302.14*
- All draft stopping and fire blocking in concealed combustible construction complete. CRC 302.11&12
- Provide installation certification for compliance with T-24 energy standards (CF2R-ENV-03-E)
- All hot and cold water pipe fully insulated with mitered corners and suitably protected as applicable. CeC 150.0(j)2
- Insulation permanently secured to attic access which is also gasketed to prevent air leakage. CeC 150.0(a) 2
- Discard wet or damaged insulation, do not install.