

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency . U.S. Department of Energy





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Recommended Levels of Insulation

Insulation level are specified by R-Value. R-Value is a measure of insulation's ability to resist heat traveling through it. The higher the R-Value the better the thermal performance of the insulation. The table below shows what levels of insulation are cost-effective for different climates and locations in the home.

Recommended insulation levels for retrofitting existing wood-framed buildings



| Zone | Add Insulation to Attic | | Elear |
|------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|
| | Uninsulated Attic | Existing 3-4 Inches of Insulation | FIOOI |
| 1 | R30 to R49 | R25 to R30 | R13 |
| 2 | R30 to R60 | R25 to R38 | R13 to R19 |
| 3 | R30 to R60 | R25 to R38 | R19 to R25 |

| 4 | R38 to R60 | R38 | R25 to R30 | |
|---|--|--|------------------|----|
| 5 to 8 | R49 to R60 | R38 to R49 | R25 to R30 | |
| Wall Insul | ation: Whenever exterior siding is remove | d on an | | |
| Uninsulate | d wood-frame wall: | | | |
| Drill holes | in the sheathing and blow insulation into the empty wall | cavity before installing the new siding, and | | |
| • Zones 3–4 | E Add R5 insulative wall sheathing beneath the new sidi | ng | | |
| Zones 5- | B: Add R5 to R6 insulative wall sheathing beneath the ne | w siding. | | |
| Insulated wood-frame wall: | | | | |
| • For Zones 4 to 8: Add R5 insulative sheathing before installing the new siding. | | | | |
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