

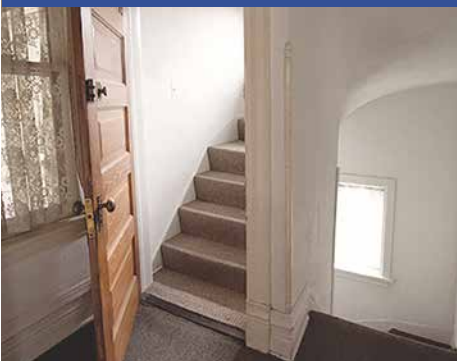


Insulate an Attic Stairway

Job Aid for Insulate Attic Floor and Pass Inspection First Time Badge

Aligns With Standard Work Specifications 4.0104.1, 4.0104.2, 4.0104.3, 4.0104.4, 4.0104.5, 4.0104.6, 4.0201.2, 4.0201.3, 4.0202.1

BEFORE



Attic stairways can offer a unique set of insulation challenges. Clearly define where the thermal and pressure boundary are going to be located before starting insulation.



If walls defining the thermal boundary are accessible from the attic side, choose between batt or blown-in insulation.



Seal off open cavities along the line of the thermal/pressure boundary.



Air seal around blocking material.



Cut batts to size for each individual cavity, ensuring no gaps remain, locating insulation vapor retarder toward conditioned space.



For batt insulation, cover installed batts with backing. For blown-in, attach netting to framing members, cut holes in netting, and blow insulation to an installed density of 3.5 pounds per cubic foot.



If walls are enclosed from attic side, drill holes in stairway walls defining the thermal boundary.



Dense pack stairway walls.



If the stairs have no backing material (e.g., drywall, plaster, etc.) towards the house or conditioned space; insulate with material specified by the work order.



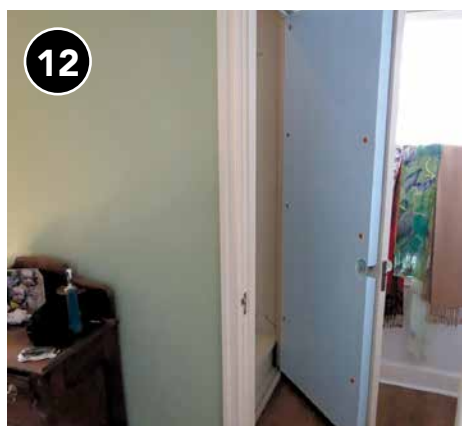
Cover insulation with an approved thermal barrier material for fire safety and to seal off insulation from conditioned space in home.



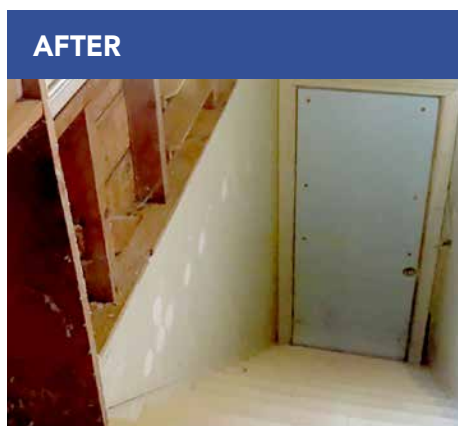
If backside of stairs already have backing material, blow insulation into cavity behind stairs.



Plug access holes for blown insulation.



Weatherstrip and insulate door using fire safe materials that meet the requirements of the authority having jurisdiction.



Insulation provides a continuous, contiguous, safe, and compliant thermal boundary that prevents air movement between the attic and the remainder of the home.



Checklist

Insulate attic floor and pass inspection the first time

DESIRED OUTCOME

Consistent thermal boundary between conditioned and unconditioned space controls heat flow.¹

Pre installation check:

- ☐ Safety protocols (e.g., venting, lighting, protective barriers) implemented prior to beginning work.
- ☐ Worker can determine whether attic is ready for insulation (e.g., check for air sealing, confirm dams around high-temp items).

Post-installation check:

- ☐ Insulation blown to proper depth.
- ☐ Level and even coverage reaches to all edges.
- ☐ Insulation is not blown onto equipment or between dams and the items dams are protecting.
- ☐ No more than 5 bags over-blown according to manufacturers' coverage chart.
- ☐ When insulating attic platforms or attics with partial platforms, insulation is in contact with air barrier (under platform), not blown over platform.
- ☐ Insulation has no gaps, voids, compression, or misalignment.
- ☐ Applicable sections of house-wide insulation certificate are filled out with² insulation type, coverage area, installed thickness, settled thickness, R-value, and number of bags installed.

1. Relevant Standards: 4.0104.1, 4.0104.2, 4.0104.3, 4.0104.4, 4.0104.5, 4.0104.6, 4.0201.2, 4.0201.3, 4.0202.1

2. Underlined details are required on all insulation certificates.
Other items are required only when using blown-in insulation.

The Weatherization Installer Job Aids were developed by Simonson Management Services under contract (GS-10F-0065U/89243422FEE400259) and published by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory under contract (DE-AC36-08GO28308) with the U.S. Department of Energy. These job aids were funded by the Weatherization Assistance Program with contributions from the weatherization training network.

