

New Insulation Requirements in 2012

It doesn't matter which path of compliance you follow, the answer is clear. Our building code recognizes the contribution of insulation to the overall energy efficiency of homes and because of that you will see a noticeable increase in insulation requirements for 2012.

With the prescriptive model*, wall insulation above grade will see an increase from R19 in Zone 1 to anywhere between R22 or R29, and Zone 2 will see an increase from R24 to a possible R29. Attic insulation will see an increase to R50 across the board in both Zone 1 and 2.

Everything depends on how you plan to meet the new building code standard equivalent of the EnerGuide 80 rating system (ERS80).

Where to Go From Here

Do your research before starting a new build. This will help you decide which method of compliance works for you and what options are available to you.

Also, talk to your local building department and see what they require from you upon permit application. Some may ask to see your software generated report if you are going the route of the performance based model, others may not. Either way, use the resources you have available to make the transition easier for you and to avoid unwanted surprises.

*Update: changes have been made in SB12 to allow for modifications in some compliance packages for both Zones 1 and 2.