

2026

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INSULATION
& BUILDING
MATERIALS
PROGRAM

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EARLY
BUYING GUIDE



CANADA'S BUILDING CODES ARE EVOLVING

TO BE MORE ENERGY-EFFICIENT, WITH A NATIONAL GOAL OF REACHING NET-ZERO ENERGY READY BY 2030.

Key Changes

- **Performance-based targets:** Provinces and territories are moving from prescriptive rules to performance-based targets for energy efficiency, giving builders flexibility in how they meet the standards.
- **Foundation insulation:** New code requirements often mandate that insulation be installed over the full height of foundation walls enclosing a basement.
- **Comprehensive air barriers:** There are increasing requirements for air barriers that prevent uncontrolled airflow through a building's enclosure, improving energy efficiency, preventing moisture damage, and enhancing overall building performance.
- **Harmonization:** To ensure consistency, provinces and territories have committed to adopting updated national codes more quickly, reducing regional variations.
- **Future focus on net-zero:** The long-term strategy is to move towards net-zero energy ready model building codes by 2030. Expect future code cycles to continue this trend, with higher energy performance requirements.

CANADA'S INSULATION BUILDING CODE CHANGES

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2025

Require higher energy efficiency, including a greater R-value for attic insulation (R-60 in many cases) and the mandatory use of continuous exterior insulation to prevent thermal bridging. New homes will also need to meet stricter requirements for insulating basements, including walls and floors.

Key Changes to Insulation Requirements



Continuous insulation: New construction must include a continuous layer of insulation outside the studs to mitigate thermal bridging. This is a significant shift from older methods that relied solely on insulation between studs, which are poor insulators themselves.



Attic insulation: The minimum R-value for attic insulation has been raised in many provinces to R-60 for new construction, an increase from older standards like R-50.



Basement insulation: New homes require more insulation for basements, including the foundation walls and under the concrete slab in new builds.



Air sealing: Buildings must be more airtight. This is often achieved with materials like spray foam, which helps prevent air leaks and contributes to overall energy efficiency.



NET-ZERO ENERGY (NZE)

BUILDING IS A BUILDING DESIGNED, CONSTRUCTED, AND OPERATED TO PRODUCE AS MUCH ENERGY AS IT CONSUMES OVER THE COURSE OF A YEAR.



This is accomplished in two primary stages:

- 1 **Massive Reduction in Energy Demand:** The first step is to make the building incredibly energy-efficient. This involves:
 - **Superior Insulation:** A highly insulated and airtight building envelope (walls, roof, foundation) minimizes heat loss in winter and heat gain in summer. This is the primary focus of the new Canadian building codes.
 - **High-Efficiency Systems:** Using highly efficient heating, cooling, ventilation (HVAC), lighting, and appliances.
 - **Passive Solar Design:** Utilizing the building's orientation and window placement to maximize natural heating and lighting.
- 2 **On-site Renewable Energy Generation:** Once the building's energy needs are minimized, renewable energy sources are installed on-site to cover the remaining demand. The most common method is using solar panels (photovoltaics) on the roof.

Net-Zero vs. Net-Zero Energy Ready (NZEr)

It is important to distinguish between "Net-Zero" and "Net-Zero Energy Ready," which is the target for Canadian building codes by 2030:

NET-ZERO ENERGY (NZE):

The building is actively producing as much energy as it uses annually, usually with solar panels already installed and operational.

NET-ZERO ENERGY READY (NZEr):

The building has the high-performance envelope and efficient systems required to achieve net-zero, but the final renewable energy generation source (like the solar panels) has not yet been installed. The infrastructure is in place, ready to add the generation capacity later.

In the context of the new Canadian building codes, NZEr represents the ultimate standard of energy efficiency that all new construction will soon be required to meet.

Canada Building Code Changes: Timeline for Net-Zero Transition

Year	Milestone/Target	Description of Changes & Impact on Insulation
Current (2025)	Provincial Adoption of NBC 2020	Provinces and territories are actively adopting the National Building Code of Canada (NBCC) 2020 and the National Energy Code of Canada for Buildings (NECB) 2020. This includes initial increases in R-value requirements for walls, attics, and foundations.
2025	Embodied Carbon Reporting Begins	The Canada Green Buildings Strategy requires the disclosure of embodied carbon in construction materials for major projects. Builders must consider the environmental impact of insulation materials used.
2027	Next Tier of Model Codes Expected	Future versions of the national model codes will introduce another significant "step change" in energy efficiency requirements, demanding even higher levels of insulation (tighter building envelopes, improved thermal bridging mitigation).
2030	National Net-Zero Energy Ready Target	All new buildings across Canada are targeted to be "Net-Zero Energy Ready" (NZEr). This means the building envelope (insulation, windows, air sealing) must be efficient enough that it could theoretically achieve net-zero energy use with the addition of renewable energy generation (e.g., solar panels).
Post-2030	Ongoing Decarbonization	Continued optimization of building performance, aiming for a fully decarbonized building stock nationally, driven by ongoing code updates and the Canada Green Buildings Strategy targets.

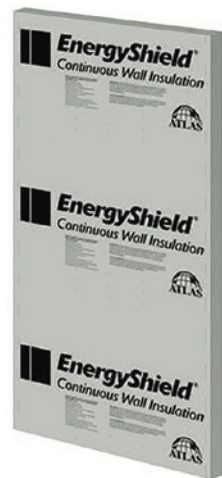


ATLAS POLYISO

With decades of proven performance, Atlas EnergyShield continuous wall insulation provides an uninterrupted thermal barrier over an entire wall, not just the cavities between studs. Atlas polyiso creates a versatile, effective barrier for thermal, air, moisture and vapor control.

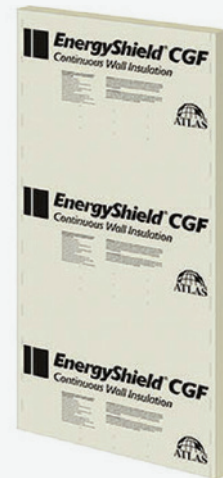


NATIONAL STOCKING PROGRAM



EnergyShield®

EnergyShield® is a great choice for residential projects that require airtight foil-faced insulation. It could be mounted on the exterior of brick walls depending on the moisture management choices of the builder, and it is suitable for Type V construction.



EnergyShield® CGF

EnergyShield® CGF is perfect for residential projects that require glass-faced insulation to provide vapor permeability. Ideal for buildings that require breathable interior insulation, EnergyShield CGF is suitable for any Type V construction.

WINTER BUY SPECIAL PRICING

LTL & FULL TRUCKLOADS

December 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026

Contact your Gillfor Account Manager for details.



IKO POLYISO

Backed by IKO's long-standing expertise in building envelope solutions, IKO Enerfoil and Ener-Air continuous insulation products deliver consistent thermal performance across the entire wall system. These polyiso panels help create an effective barrier for heat, air, and moisture control, supporting energy efficiency and improved indoor comfort.



NATIONAL STOCKING PROGRAM



Enerfoil

IKO Enerfoil Sheathing Wall Insulation is a rigid polyisocyanurate foam board with high thermal performance. It features a closed-cell core bonded to aluminum foil facers and is designed as non-structural, non-permeable sheathing for cavity walls, stud walls, or interior basements.



Ener-Air

IKO Ener-Air Wall Insulation is a rigid polyisocyanurate foam panel with high thermal performance. It features a closed-cell core bonded to coated fiberglass facers and is designed as non-structural sheathing for cavity walls, stud walls, or cathedral ceilings. Ener-Air provides a dimensionally stable air barrier with high vapour permeance and strong water-shedding capabilities.

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POLYISO



DUPONT XPS

Since 1941, Styrofoam™ Brand extruded polystyrene (XPS) has built a rich, storied heritage as an innovative, sustainable building product – creating an entire insulation material category. Its unique closed-cell structure and rigid foam board technology enables XPS to meet core thermal, moisture, air and vapor performance requirements.



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Styrofoam™ Brand Cladmate™ CM20

DuPont™ Styrofoam™ Brand CM20 XPS Insulation is a moisture-resistant, durable, and lightweight foam board used for interior frame wall sheathing, masonry wall insulation, and residential basement floor slabs in both new construction and retrofits.



DuPont™ Styrofoam™ Brand SM30

Styrofoam™ Brand SM30 XPS Insulation features a closed-cell structure that resists water absorption and maintains high thermal performance over time. It protects foundation damp-proofing and waterproofing during backfilling and adds a secondary barrier against groundwater intrusion.



TYVEK BUILDING WRAPS & ACCESSORIES

NATIONAL STOCKING PROGRAM



Tyvek® HomeWrap®

Made by spinning and fusing ultra-fine high-density polyethylene fibers into a strong, uniform web, DuPont™ Tyvek® HomeWrap® blocks wind and rain intrusion while enabling vapour to pass through and protecting against moisture-related damage.



Tyvek® CommercialWrap®

Engineered to provide excellent performance as an air and water barrier, DuPont™ Tyvek® CommercialWrap® delivers the added strength and durability needed in commercial construction.



Tyvek® DrainWrap™

Vertical grooves on the surface of Tyvek® DrainWrap™ make it a superior water-resistant barrier (WRB) that is engineered to channel bulk water away from residential wall systems and drain safely to the outside.



DuPont™ FlexWrap™

DuPont™ FlexWrap™ is a premium extendable self-adhered flashing membrane specifically designed to provide seamless air and water barrier protection at window and door corners.



DuPont™ StraightFlash™

DuPont™ StraightFlash™ is a single-sided, self-adhered flashing solution that bridges the gap between the rough opening and building envelope to protect against water intrusion around heads and jambs of rectangular doors, windows and other gaps.



DuPont™ Flashing Tape

DuPont™ Flashing Tape is a self-adhered flashing tape with improved workability made from polypropylene film with a butyl rubber adhesive backing. It helps create a durable seal against water intrusion around heads and jambs of rectangular windows and doors.

120	160	200
25 lbs.	31 lbs.	36 lbs.
30-Year Warranty	40-Year Warranty	50-Year Warranty
3 Months UV Exposure	6 Months UV Exposure	6 Months UV Exposure
Roof Types: Asphalt, Cedar, Metal	Roof Types: Asphalt, Cedar, Metal, Tile, Slate	Roof Types: Asphalt, Cedar, Metal, Tile, Slate

Tyvek® Protec™

Tyvek Protec's four-layer construction provides industry-leading walkability in dry, wet, hot, cold and dirty conditions, ideal for slopes 2:12 or higher under a variety of roofing materials in repair, re-roofing and new construction.

PUT YOUR LOGO FRONT AND CENTER ON EVERY JOBSITE!
Contact your Gillfor Account Manager to learn more about custom-branded Tyvek®





OWENS CORNING INSULATION

Owens Corning offers a wide range of residential insulation products for various wall insulation needs, including fiberglass and blown-in insulation options. Whether insulating basements, garages, or living spaces, Owens Corning's wall insulation products are designed to provide reliable thermal performance and sound control.

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PINK NEXT GEN® FIBERGLAS® Insulation

The next generation of fiberglass insulation. A preformed, flexible batt with advanced fibre technology for easier handling and more precise installation.



QUIETZONE® PINK NEXT GEN® FIBERGLAS® Insulation

The next generation of acoustic fiberglass insulation. A preformed, flexible batt with advanced fibre technology for easier handling, more precise installation and for enhancing acoustical performance by absorbing sound transfer.



AttiCat® PINK® Blown-In Insulation

AttiCat® PINK® Blown-In Insulation is a great solution for a DIY attic insulation top up for thermal comfort and energy cost savings. It is designed for use exclusively with the AttiCat® machine.

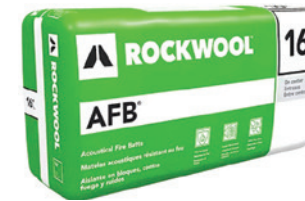


ROCKWOOL INSULATION

Engineered for strength and sustainability, ROCKWOOL Insulation offers exceptional fire resistance, endless recyclability, year-round thermal comfort, and reliable moisture protection. Its durable fiber structure maintains performance over time, even in demanding conditions.



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AFB

AFB is a lightweight semi-rigid batt insulation for steel stud interior wall and floor applications. Designed for fire resistance and acoustic comfort.



Safe'n'Sound

Safe'n'Sound is a stone wool batt insulation product for use in interior wall, floor and ceilings of residential wood and steel stud construction.



Safe 45

Safe 45 is a semi-rigid stone wool insulation board ideal for fire stopping in concealed spaces of multi-unit residential buildings.



Comfortbatt

Comfortbatt is a stone wool insulation thermal batt for use in both new residential construction and renovations. A unique flexible edge helps maintain R-values.



Comfortboard

Rigid, high-density, stone wool insulation board used as exterior continuous insulation in residential and commercial applications where enhanced compressive strengths are required.

FIBERGLASS & STONE WOOL



GYPSUM BOARD

Since 1965, Georgia-Pacific has developed the highest quality gypsum building products in the industry. ToughRock® gypsum boards are ideal for interior applications, while the Dens® family of high-performance fiberglass mat-faced gypsum products offer exceptional strength and superior moisture, mold, and fire resistance.



NATIONAL STOCKING PROGRAM



TOUGHROCK

UL classified Type TRSL for use in a variety of fire-rated assemblies. Double beveled edges for ease of installation. Used for area separation walls, stairwells, elevator shafts, and other interior mechanical system or duct enclosures.



DensShield

The first backer board with a built-in moisture barrier. Absorbs less water than the leader fiber cement. Easier to handle than cement board-cuts and installs like drywall without special tools or fasteners.



DensGlass

DensGlass is a glass mat gypsum panel used in UL fire-rated shaftwall, stairwell, area separation wall assemblies in addition to horizontal shaftwall and duct assemblies.

MARKET INFORMATION

DRYWALL

The building code changes will affect the drywall market, primarily by driving demand for **specialized drywall products** and potentially influencing **installation techniques** and overall market dynamics.



Shifts in Product Demand



INCREASED USE OF SPECIALIZED DRYWALL

The new codes emphasize performance, driving demand for specific types of drywall tailored to enhanced requirements:



- **Fire-Resistant (Type X and Type C):** Stricter fire separation rules, especially in multi-family dwellings or legal basement units, will necessitate the use of fire-rated drywall.



- **Moisture-Resistant:** The focus on better air sealing and vapour barriers to prevent moisture issues in highly insulated envelopes means moisture-resistant boards will be more commonly specified for areas prone to humidity.
- **Acoustic/Soundproofing:** As builders focus on creating a high-performance building envelope, controlling noise transmission between units or rooms will become a priority, boosting the market for soundproofing drywall options.



SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS

The industry's move towards sustainability and the requirement for embodied carbon disclosure in the Canada Green Buildings Strategy is encouraging the use of alternative, bio-based, or recycled-content materials in drywall manufacturing.

Impact on Installation and Supply



CHANGES IN WALL ASSEMBLY

To accommodate higher R-values, builders may use strategies like continuous rigid foam insulation on the interior walls before the drywall is installed. This changes the interaction between insulation installers and drywall contractors, requiring careful coordination to ensure airtightness and proper vapour barrier installation.



NEED FOR PRECISION

Achieving the high level of airtightness required by the new codes means that all components, including the transition points where drywall meets other surfaces, must be carefully sealed, increasing the need for skilled labour and precise installation.



POTENTIAL SUPPLY CHAIN PRESSURES

Canada has a limited number of domestic drywall manufacturers, which can lead to supply concerns and price volatility, especially if demand for specialized products spikes nationally and tariffs on imports from the U.S. persist.

In short, the drywall market will likely see less demand for generic drywall and **greater demand for specialized, high-performance products** that contribute to the overall efficiency, safety, and sustainability goals of the new Canadian building codes.