Frequently Asked Questions | Owens Corning Thermafiber®

May 26, 2017
General Questions

1. What is Thermafiber® mineral wool insulation? Thermafiber® mineral wool insulation is made from naturally occurring rocks and recycled slag. Slag is a by-product of the steel industry. Rocks, of various types, are an abundant natural resource. These raw materials are melted at 2,600°F and fiberized (spun into fibers) to create Thermafiber® mineral wool insulation products with an industry leading minimum of 70 percent recycled content[1]. Thermafiber® mineral wool insulation is naturally non-combustible and fire resistant up to 1093° C (2000° F) making it great for providing protection to structures.

[1]Recycled content as verified by ICC-ES.

2. What happens if Thermafiber® insulation gets wet? Thermafiber® mineral wool insulation is moisture resistant and does not readily absorb water as tested per ASTM C 1104. If the insulation gets wet, simply allow the insulation to dry in order to maintain original performance.

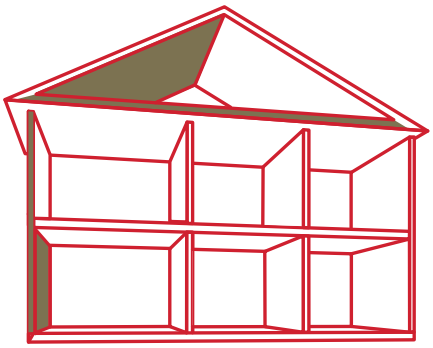
3. Is Thermafiber® insulation resistant to mold and fungi growth? As an inorganic material made from rocks and slag, Thermafiber® mineral wool insulation does not provide a food source for mold growth. Thermafiber® products have been tested per the ASTM C 1338 standard for determining the resistance of insulation to the growth of fungi, ensuring the products are mold resistant.

4. Is loose fill Thermafiber® mineral wool insulation available? Yes, Thermafiber® INSUL-FILL™ is a loose fill mineral wool insulation for both attic and wall applications. Currently, this product is only available through special order in Canada. Please contact your local Area Sales Manager for more information.

5. What is the difference between Thermafiber® Fire & Sound Guard™ insulation & Thermafiber® UltraBatt™ insulation? Thermafiber® Fire & Sound Guard™ mineral wool insulation is specifically designed to provide outstanding sound performance to help keep outside noise out and reduced inside noise from traveling room-to-room. The product is best suited for interior partition walls and floors/ceilings. In addition, Fire & Sound Guard™ withstands temperatures above 1093° C (2000° F).

Thermafiber® UltraBatt™ mineral wool insulation is specifically designed to reduce heat transfer from the outside of the home to the inside of the home by providing a high thermal resistance (R-value) for exterior walls, floors and ceilings and will further enhance noise control.

Fire & Sound Guard™



UltraBatt™

6. Can I still use Thermafiber® Fire & Sound Guard™ insulation in exterior walls, floors and ceilings? As a thermally rated product, we recommend the use of Thermafiber® UltraBatt™ in exterior wall, floor, and ceiling applications. Thermafiber® Fire & Sound Guard™ is best suited for interior applications.

7. Which insulation product will work best to reduce sound transfer inside my home? Both Owens Corning® Thermafiber® Fire & Sound Guard™ mineral wool insulation & Owens Corning® EcoTouch® QuietZone® fiberglass insulation will provide excellent acoustical performance within your home. It is a matter of personal preference by either the installer or the homeowner, the sound difference will be indiscernible to the naked ear.

For increased performance, acoustic batt insulation can be coupled with additional measures to reduce sound transfer in your home. For more information, see our answer to How does sound travel through my home?

8. How does sound travel through my home? Sound inside a home can either be an impact sound; walking on a floor and furniture moving, or an airborne sound; people talking and music playing. Impact sounds travel mainly through mechanical vibration of the rigid components in the wall, floor or ceiling; wood studs, drywall or flooring. Separating these rigid components from one another is the best way to reduce the transfer of vibrations. Resilient channel installed on ceilings is a common practice used to reduce impact sound transfer through floors/ceilings.

Airborne sounds also travel through vibrations in rigid components, but in addition, reverberates through empty stud and joist cavities. Sound absorbing insulation can reduce this reverberation to provide improved acoustical performance but best practice is to install sound absorbing insulation and resilient channel to address both mechanical vibrations and reverberations.

9. How does Thermafiber® mineral wool insulation differ from Roxul® mineral wool insulation? Thermafiber® and Roxul® are both mineral wool insulation products. Thermafiber® mineral wool insulation products lead the industry with a minimum of 70 percent recycled content[1].

[1]Recycled content as verified by ICC-ES.

Recently, Owens Corning was the first to announce the coming launch of formaldehyde-free light-density Thermafiber® products reflecting our continuous investment into building science expertise, technical resources, and product innovation.

10. Why is Owens Corning introducing Thermafiber® mineral wool insulation in Canada? Owens Corning is excited to introduce Thermafiber® mineral wool insulation into the Canadian retail market. Owens Corning provides a broad insulation portfolio encompassing fiberglass, foam, and mineral wool insulation products for all insulation needs.