



Kitsap County

Department of Community Development

Residential Insulation Inspection

This checklist reflects code requirements of the 2018 International Residential Code (IRC), Washington State Amendments as adopted by the State Building Code Council (SBCC), Washington State Energy Code (WSEC), and Title 14 of the Kitsap County Code. It incorporates most inspected items for the inspection type, but it does not include every possible condition or code requirement. The intended users of this checklist are Kitsap County Building Inspectors, but it may also serve as a guide to contractors and permit holders.

Permits and Plans

- Job address shall be posted in a visible location. (R319.1)
- Permit and approved plans are on site and accessible to the inspector. All documentation must be legible. (R105.7, R106.1.1, R106.3.1)
- Note corrections left from current or prior inspections which need to be addressed at this time. Ensure all previously required inspections are approved. (R109.4)
- Plans have been reviewed for insulation requirements. (WSEC R103)

General Requirements

- The newly constructed area is dried in (roofing is complete and exterior moisture barriers are installed). (R701.2)
- All insulation is installed per code and/or the manufacturer’s installation instructions, whichever is stricter. Installation instructions shall be available onsite.
- Insulation is installed at roof, walls, and floors at the thickness indicated per prescriptive requirements unless superseded by the approved plans. (WSEC R402)
- Prescriptive insulation requirements for residential occupancies are per WSEC Table R402.1.1

WSEC Table R402.1.1: Prescriptive Insulation Requirements for Residential Occupancies Ceilings (1)	Vaulted Ceilings	Walls Above Grade	Wall Interior Below Grade (2)	Wall Exterior Below Grade (2)	Floor	Slab-on-Grade (2)
R-49	R-38	R-21	R-21	R-10	R-30	R-10

(1) For single rafter or joist vaulted ceilings the insulation may be reduced to R-38

(2) Below grade walls shall be insulated either on the exterior to a minimum level of R-10, or on the interior to the same level as walls above grade. Exterior insulation installed on below grade walls shall be a water-resistant material, manufactured for its intended use, and installed according to the manufacturer’s specifications. See Slab Insulation below for more details.

- Any insulation with facings, vapor barriers, or breathable papers, installed within floor/ceiling or roof/ceiling assemblies, walls, crawl spaces, under-stair voids, or attics, is required to have a minimum flame spread rating of less than 25 and a smoke density not to exceed 450. (R302.10.1)

Exception: Limits don’t apply when facing is installed in substantial contact with the unexposed surface of ceiling, floor, or wall. Unfaced insulation is okay when concealed in areas previously mentioned.



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- Insulation is securely installed in floors, walls, and ceilings not being fully enclosed (fireplaces, crawl space walls, etc.). (WSEC R402.2.8, WSEC Table R402.4.1.1)
- Insulation materials must display the R-rating on a side visible for inspections. (WSEC R303.1.2)
- All recessed light fixtures are IC (insulation contact) rated or enclosed within a sealed assembly. (WSEC R402.4.5)

Access Hatches and Doors

- Access doors from conditioned spaces to unconditioned spaces are weather-stripped and insulated to a level equal to the insulation at surrounding surfaces. (WSECR402.2.4)
- Wood framing, or equivalent retainer, is installed around the perimeter of the attic access to the height of surrounding insulation to prevent insulation from spilling and to maintain the R-value at the access. (WSEC R402.2.4)

Attic Insulation

- For air permeable insulations in vented attics, a baffle shall be installed adjacent to soffit and eave vents. Baffles shall maintain an opening equal to or greater than the size of the vent. The baffle shall extend over the top of the attic insulation. The baffle shall be permitted to be any solid material. (WSEC R402.2.3)
- The thickness of blown-in or sprayed roof/ceiling insulation (fiberglass or cellulose) shall be written in inches (mm) on markers that are installed at least one for every 300 square feet (28 m²) throughout the attic space. The markers shall be affixed to the trusses or joists and marked with the minimum initial installed thickness with numbers a minimum of 1 inch (25 mm) in height. (WSECR303.1.1.1)
- Loose fill insulation may be used in attic spaces where the slope does not exceed 3 in 12 and where there is at least 30 inches of clear distance from the top of the bottom chord of the truss or ceiling joist to the underside of the sheathing at the roof ridge. (WSECR402.2.1.1)

Wall and Ceiling Insulation

- All faced insulation is stapled over the face of the framing member. Insulation may also be unfaced with a vapor barrier installed over the whole wall or unfaced with a PVA primer used to seal drywall. (WSEC table 402.4.1.1, R702.7)
- Air leakage barrier is installed to warm side of wall, floor, or ceiling. (WSEC R402.4)

Floor Insulation

- The floor insulation is installed securely and in substantial contact with the surface being insulated. (WSEC R402.2.7)
- Insulation supports are installed at a maximum of 24 inches on center or per the manufacturer's installation instruction, whichever is stricter. Crawl space insulation typically checked at final inspection. (WSEC R402.2.8)
- Insulation is not blocking the foundation vents. When foundation vents are not placed so that the top of the vent is below the lower surface of the floor insulation, a permanently attached baffle shall be installed at an angle of 30° from horizontal, to divert air flow below the lower surface of the floor insulation. Typically checked at final inspection. (WSEC R402.2.7)



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Slab Insulation (On-Grade and Below-Grade)

- Slab insulation, if installed inside the foundation wall, extends down from the top of the slab for 24 inches or to the top of the footing, whichever is less, or extends down from the top of the slab and horizontally beneath the slab for total of 24 inches. No insulation is required below slabs when installed a minimum of 2 feet below grade. (WSEC R402.2.9; Table WSEC R402.1.1)
- The entire area of a radiant slab is thermally isolated from the soil with a minimum of R-10 insulation and the insulation must be approved for the use. A mechanical rough-in inspection must be approved before the slab/foundation pour when a radiant heat system is being used. (WSEC R402.2.2.9.1)
- Insulated slabs on grade require an R-5 minimum thermal break between the foundation wall and the slab. (WSEC R402.2.8, R402.2.9, R402.1.1)
- Exposed above-grade insulation is protected from physical and ultraviolet damage. (WSEC R303.2.1)
- Insulation installed on the cold side of a wall extends from the top of the below-grade wall to the top of the footing. (WSEC R402.2.8)
- Insulation installed on the warm side of a wall extends from the top of the below-grade wall to the below-grade floor level. (WSEC R402.2.8)

Vapor Retarder

- Vapor retarder is installed. See Wall and Ceiling Insulation section. (IRC R702.7)
- Vapor retarder has a one perm dry cup rating or less (typically sheet polyethylene, kraft-faced material, or PVA). (R702.7.2)

Ground Cover

- 6-mil black plastic is installed in the vented crawlspace, overlapped a minimum 6 inches and extends to the foundation walls. (R408.1)

Exception: Ground cover may be omitted if the crawlspace has a concrete slab floor with a minimum thickness of 2 inches.

Seals and Weather-Stripping

- Exterior joints around windows, door frames, openings between walls and foundations, openings at utility services through walls, floors, and roofs are sealed, caulked, gasketed, or weather-stripped to limit air leakage. (WSEC R402.4, WSEC Table R402.4.1.1)
- Bottom plates and corners at insides of exterior walls have been caulked. (WSEC Table R402.4.1.1)
- All exterior doors, and doors serving as access to enclosed unheated areas, are weather-stripped. (WSEC R402.4, WSEC Table R402.4.1.1)