

# Greener Options for Fiber Glass & Cellulose Insulation



Natural Fiber Blown-In Cellulose Insulation. Photo courtesy GreenFiber.



Unfaced Fiber Glass Roll Insulation. Photo courtesy Johns Manville.

*This brochure highlights environmentally preferable  
fiber glass and cellulose insulation products  
for use in residential building energy upgrades and retrofits.*

## What Makes These Products Green?

The building insulation products listed here are certified through third-party testing to:

- Emit undetectable or ultra-low amounts of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) including formaldehyde\*
- Have at least 30% post-consumer recycled content

Other chemicals of concern may be present in insulation. New screening criteria may be added to this brochure when appropriate hazard evaluation standards are identified.

\*Conforms to California Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Laboratory Branch, *Standard Method for the Testing & Evaluation of VOC Emissions*, V1.1, 2010 (CA Specification 01350) using the single family residence scenario found in Appendix B. View online at [www.cal-iaq.org](http://www.cal-iaq.org).

## Benefits of Insulation with Ultra-Low VOCs and Recycled Content

### Improving Indoor Air Quality

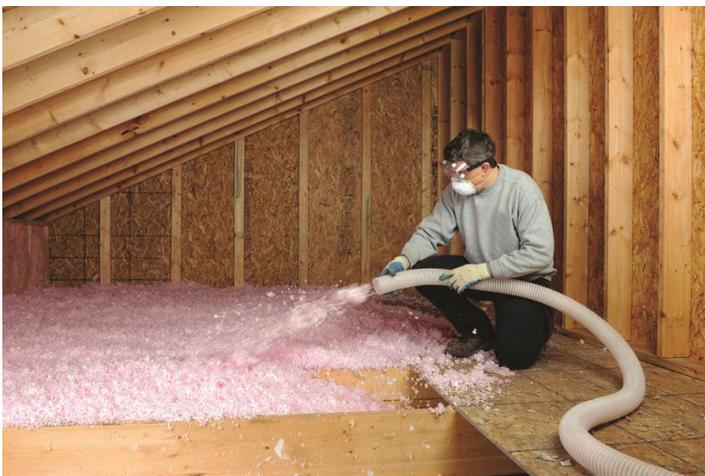
Each year, insulation is added to thousands of California homes to make them more comfortable and energy efficient. Fiber glass and cellulose insulation are commonly used to insulate residential buildings. When choosing these products, it's important to consider not just energy efficiency but also how the product will affect the home's indoor air quality.

Insulation materials occupy a large volume of space inside a home's walls, floors, and attic or roof area. Some insulation products emit harmful chemical vapors such as formaldehyde. When the air pressure changes between the inside and outside of buildings, airborne chemicals emitted from insulation can move through walls, floors and ceilings and pass into the home—a process known as infiltration.

The fiber glass and cellulose batts and blown-in insulation products listed on the next page as ultra-low VOC are safer choices. They emit ultra-low or undetectable levels of harmful chemicals, which helps keep indoor air healthier and may help prevent diseases like asthma and cancer.

### Promoting Recycling & Recycled-Content Products

Choosing products with high post-consumer recycled content is good for the environment and the economy—it creates markets for discarded materials like glass bottles and newspapers and keeps them out of landfills. What's more, recycled products typically require less energy to manufacture than similar non-recycled products. The insulation products listed as recycled in this brochure contain at least 30% post-consumer recycled content. Some contain over 80% post-consumer recycled content.



PROPINK® L77 Loosefill Fiber Glass Insulation. Photo courtesy Owens Corning.



Unfaced Batts. Photo courtesy Knauf Insulation.



Unfaced Batts. Photo courtesy CertainTeed Saint-Gobain.

### About this Brochure

Since 2010, StopWaste.Org has engaged with insulation manufacturers to provide independent third-party certification of the VOC emissions and recycled content of fiber glass and cellulose insulation products. In this 2012 update, these third-party certifications have been verified by Healthy Building Network's Pharos Project. More complete environmental information for each product can be found at [www.pharosproject.net](http://www.pharosproject.net).

This brochure is a publication of Energy Upgrade California in Alameda County with input and support from U.S. EPA Region 9. The environmental criteria used to screen the products listed here may be modified, as warranted.

Future updates will include newly certified products. Manufacturers interested in having their products listed in this brochure can email Wes Sullens ([WSullens@stopwaste.org](mailto:WSullens@stopwaste.org)).

Stop waste! For a handy reference, print only this page.  
Download the full brochure at [www.StopWaste.Org/Insulation](http://www.StopWaste.Org/Insulation)

**Table 1. Fiber Glass & Cellulose Insulation – Ultra-Low VOC and Recycled**

Products listed in this table are independently certified to have *both* ultra-low VOC emissions levels *and* at least 30% post-consumer recycled content.

| Manufacturer                                  | Product Name  |  | Ultra-Low VOC |
|---|---|---|---------------|
| Product Type                                  |   |   |               |
| <b>Johns Manville</b><br>fiber glass batts    | Unfaced and Faced (kraft, MR) Batts and Rolls, ComfortTherm <sup>®</sup> Batts and Rolls; Easy Fit <sup>®</sup> Unfaced and Kraft-Faced Batts   | ✓   | ✓             |
| <b>Johns Manville</b><br>blown-in fiber glass | Attic Protector <sup>®</sup> , ClimatePro <sup>®</sup> , Spider <sup>®</sup>  | ✓   | ✓             |
| <b>Knauf</b><br>fiber glass batts             | EcoBatt <sup>®</sup> Thermal and Acoustical Insulation  | ✓   | ✓             |
| <b>Knauf</b><br>blown-in fiber glass          | Ecofill <sup>™</sup> Wx Glass Wool Blowing Insulation   | ✓   | ✓             |
| <b>Owens Corning</b><br>fiber glass batts     | EcoTouch <sup>®</sup> PINK FIBERGLAS <sup>®</sup> Insulation with Pure Fiber Technology <sup>™</sup><br>EcoTouch <sup>®</sup> QuietZone <sup>™</sup> PINK FIBERGLAS <sup>®</sup> Insulation<br>EcoTouch <sup>®</sup> Insulation with Pure Fiber Technology <sup>™</sup> | ✓   | ✓             |
| <b>Owens Corning</b><br>blown-in fiber glass  | PROPINK <sup>®</sup> L77 Loosefill Insulation, PROPINK Complete <sup>™</sup> Blown-in Wall System using PROPINK <sup>®</sup> L77 Loosefill Insulation, AttiCat <sup>®</sup> Expanding Blown-In PINK FIBERGLAS <sup>™</sup>  | ✓   | ✓             |

**Table 2. Fiber Glass & Cellulose Insulation – Ultra-Low VOC or Recycled**

Products listed in this table are independently certified to have *either* ultra-low VOC emissions *or* at least 30% post-consumer recycled content.

| Manufacturer                               | Product Name   |  | Ultra-Low VOC |
|--|--|---|---------------|
| Product Type                               |  |   |               |
| <b>CertainTeed</b><br>fiber glass batts    | CertaPRO <sup>™</sup> AcoustaTherm <sup>™</sup> , Thermal Extended Flange, Thermal Foil Faced and Thermal FSK-25 Batts; DryRight <sup>™</sup> Fiber Glass Insulation; EasyTouch <sup>™</sup> Encapsulated Fiber Glass Insulation; Fiber Glass Building Insulation; High-Performance Fiber Glass Building Insulation; NoiseReducer <sup>™</sup> Acoustical Ceiling, Sound Attenuation, and Sound Control Batts; SoftTouch <sup>™</sup> Duct Wrap; Sustainable Insulation <sup>™</sup> Faced and Unfaced Batts |   | ✓             |
| <b>CertainTeed</b><br>blown-in fiber glass | InsulSafe <sup>®</sup> SP, OPTIMA <sup>®</sup> , True Comfort <sup>™</sup> , UltraComfort <sup>™</sup>   |   | ✓             |
| <b>GreenFiber</b><br>blown-in cellulose    | Natural Fiber Insulation   | ✓   |               |