



BRANZ Appraised
Appraisal No. 873 [2016]

EARTHWOOL INSULATION



Appraisal No. 873 [2016]

This Appraisal replaces BRANZ

Appraisal No. 648 [2009]

BRANZ Appraisals

Technical Assessments of products
for building and construction.



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Product

- 1.1 Earthwool insulation is a range of thermal insulating material manufactured from ECOSE Technology resin bonded glass wool fibres. The insulation is pre-cut to suit a wide range of thermal insulation requirements and framing set-outs in walls, roofs and ceilings of buildings.

Scope

- 2.1 Earthwool insulation has been appraised as a thermal insulation material for framed or part-framed walls, ceilings and roofs of domestic and commercial buildings. In bushfire areas, the provisions of BCA Volume 2 Part 3.7.4 must be complied with.

Building Regulations

National Construction Code Series [NCC 2016] Building Code of Australia [BCA]

- 3.1 In the opinion of BRANZ, Earthwool insulation, if designed, used, installed and maintained in accordance with the statements and conditions of this Appraisal, will meet the following provisions of the BCA:

BCA Volume 1 - Class 2 to 9 Buildings

Section J - Energy Efficiency: Performance Requirement JP1. Earthwool insulation will satisfy this requirement. See Paragraphs 13.1 and 13.5.

BCA Volume 2 - Class 1 and Class 10 Buildings

Part 2.6 Energy Efficiency: Performance Requirement P2.6.1. Earthwool insulation will satisfy this requirement. See Paragraphs 13.2 - 13.5.

Technical Specification

4.1 Earthwool insulation is an ECOSE Technology resin bonded fibrous glass wool insulation. It is manufactured from recycled and/or virgin glass and ECOSE Technology resin and is formed into batts, blankets and rolls. Earthwool insulation is available as set out in Table 1.

Table 1: Earthwool insulation product range

R-value	Nominal Thickness [mm]	Length [mm]	Width [mm]	Nett Area [m ²]	Density [kg/m ³]
Acoustic Insulation					
1.2	50	1160	430	9.9	11
1.2	50	1160	580	13.4	11
1.2	50	2700	450	24.3	11
1.2	50	2700	600	32.4	11
1.3	50	1160	430	18.9	14
1.3	50	1160	450	19.8	14
1.3	50	1160	580	25.6	14
1.3	50	1160	600	26.4	14
1.8	75	1160	430	6.9	11
1.8	75	1160	580	9.4	11
1.8	75	2700	450	17	11
1.8	75	2700	600	22.7	11
1.9	75	1160	430	11.9	14
1.9	75	1160	450	12.5	14
1.9	75	1160	580	16.1	14
1.9	75	1160	600	16.7	14
1.9	75	1200	600	17.3	14
Wall Batts					
1.5	75	1160	430	20.9	8.1
1.5	75	1160	580	28.2	8.1
2.0	90	1160	430	15.9	9.5
2.0	90	1160	580	21.5	9.5
2.0	75	1160	430	9.9	17.3
2.0	75	1160	450	10.4	17.3
2.0	75	1160	580	13.5	17.3
2.0	75	1160	600	13.9	17.3
2.1	90	1160	580	19.5	10.8
2.5	90	1160	430	6.9	20.3
2.5	90	1160	580	9.4	20.3
2.7	90	1160	430	4.9	29.1
2.7	90	1160	580	6.7	29.1
Ceiling Batts					
3.0	145	1160	430	11.4	7.9
3.0	145	1160	580	15.5	7.9
3.5	175	1160	430	10.5	7.3
3.5	175	1200	580	16.6	7.3

Table 1: Earthwool insulation product range cont...

R-value	Nominal Thickness [mm]	Length [mm]	Width [mm]	Nett Area [m ²]	Density [kg/m ³]
Ceiling Batts cont...					
4.0	195	1160	430	8.9	7.7
4.0	195	1160	580	12.1	7.7
5.0	210	1160	430	5.5	11.2
5.0	210	1160	580	7.4	11.2
6.0	275	1160	430	5.5	9.0
6.0	275	1160	580	7.4	9.0
Handy Rolls					
2.1	90	18,000	430	7.7	10.7
2.1	90	18,000	580	10.4	10.7
DriTherm[^]					
1.4	50	1100	600	5.3	29.5
Commercial Rolls					
1.3	55	37,000	1200	44.4	11.1
1.5	60	28,000	1200	33.6	13.4
1.8	75	26,000	1200	31.2	11.6
2.3	100	22,000	1200	26.4	10.2
2.5	105	18,500	1200	22.2	11.5
3.0	120	14,500	1200	17.4	13.1
3.2	130	13,500	1200	16.2	12.7

Note: [^] Products have been tested and comply with AS/NZS 4859.1: 2002. Design and installation for these products are not covered by this Appraisal. Refer to Knauf Insulation Pty Limited for further information.

- 4.2 Earthwool insulation is brown in colour and is packaged in pre-printed plastic compression bags with labelling in compliance with AS/NZS 4859.1.
- 4.3 Accessories used with Earthwool insulation, which are supplied by the insulation installer, are plastic strapping and fixings.

Handling and Storage

- 5.1 Earthwool insulation must be stored under cover and in dry conditions. Heavy objects must not be stacked on the packs. The packs must be stored in an orientation that avoids excessive compression of the product.
- 5.2 In general, insulation products are sensitive to the length of time they are stored in compression packaging. Product that does not recover to its nominal thickness may not achieve the stated R-value.

Technical Literature

- 6.1 Refer to the Appraisal listing on the BRANZ website for details of the current Technical Literature for Earthwool insulation. The Technical Literature must be read in conjunction with this Appraisal. All aspects of design, use, installation and maintenance contained in the Technical Literature and within the scope of this Appraisal must be followed.

Design Information

General

- 7.1 Earthwool insulation is intended for use as thermal insulation to meet the energy efficiency requirements of the BCA. Earthwool insulation can be used to meet the Deemed-to-Satisfy provisions of the BCA. Greater construction R-values can be achieved where specific design is used. Product R-values and dimensions are given in Table 1.
- 7.2 Earthwool insulation batt, blanket and roll products are designed to be friction-fitted between wall, ceiling or roof framing, or laid directly over the ceiling lining, ceiling battens or joist/truss chords. In other horizontal situations, the insulation must be adequately supported by a suitable durable material.
- 7.3 The insulation thickness should be selected to suit the framing cavity. Earthwool insulation must not be compressed into cavities less than the insulations nominal thickness. In walls the insulation should be a snug fit between the interior lining and the wall sarking. Support may be needed to prevent insulation encroaching into wall cavity spaces.
- 7.4 To prevent moisture transfer and provide roof ventilation, a separation of 25 mm minimum is required between the insulation and any rigid substrate or flexible roof sarking or underlay.
- 7.5 The building envelope must be constructed to ensure the insulation remains dry during installation and throughout the life of the building.
- 7.6 The clearance requirements for heating appliances and downlights must be met and reference made to the manufacturer's instructions and the BCA. See Paragraphs 10.1 and 15.6. The clearances must be taken into account in the assessment of BCA Energy Efficiency.

Durability

Serviceable Life

- 8.1 Where the building is maintained so that the Damp and Weatherproofing provisions of the BCA are met, and where the insulation is not crushed or exposed to conditions that will diminish its thermal performance, (e.g. moisture), Earthwool insulation can be expected to be fit for its intended purpose and have a serviceable life similar to other glasswool insulation products.

Maintenance

- 9.1 Insulation that has become damp must be removed and the cause of the dampness repaired. Cavities must be clean and dry before fitting new insulation of an equivalent thermal rating.

Fire Safety

- 10.1 The Technical Literature must be read for instructions on the required separation distances from sources of heat. The separation distances must be followed for compliance to the BCA.
- 10.2 Where Earthwool insulation is used in bushfire areas and is not protected by non-combustible building elements, consideration must be given to the provisions of BCA Volume 2 Part 3.7.4.

Damp and Weatherproofing

- 11.1 The total building envelope must comply with the Damp and Weatherproofing requirements of the BCA to ensure that the insulation remains dry in use.
- 11.2 The moisture content of the construction materials at the time of enclosing the insulation must meet the requirements of the lining manufacturer.

Internal Moisture

- 12.1 Buildings must provide an adequate combination of thermal resistance, ventilation and space temperature to all habitable spaces, bathrooms, laundries and other spaces where moisture may be generated or may accumulate.

Energy Efficiency

- 13.1 Earthwool insulation complies with AS/NZS 4859.1 as required by BCA Volume One Deemed-to-Satisfy Provision J1.2. Earthwool insulation satisfies BCA Volume One Performance Requirement JP1 through compliance with the Deemed-to-Satisfy Provisions of J1.1 to J1.6 where required.
- 13.2 Earthwool insulation complies with AS/NZS 4859.1 as required by BCA Volume Two Acceptable Construction Practice 3.12.1.1. Earthwool insulation satisfies BCA Volume Two Performance Requirement P2.6.1 through compliance with the provisions of Acceptable Construction Practice 3.12.1.1 to 3.12.1.5.
- 13.3 Contribution to the overall thermal performance and energy rating of houses needs to be considered. The individual thermal conductivity of the insulation contributes to the overall thermal energy rating, but thermal conductivity on its own cannot be used to determine the contribution to the overall energy rating and thermal efficiency of the house.
- 13.4 A thermal calculation method that complies with the ABCB Protocol for House Energy Rating Software must be used.
- 13.5 For details of State and Territory Variations, refer to the BCA.

Installation Information

Installation Skill Level Requirement

- 14.1 Installation of Earthwool insulation must be completed by an installer with an understanding of insulation installation.

General

- 15.1 Installation of Earthwool insulation must be in accordance with the Technical Literature, Installation Instructions and this Appraisal. AS 3999 should be used as a guide for installing insulation in residential buildings.
- 15.2 The product must be installed only when the building is enclosed and when construction materials have achieved the required maximum moisture content or less.
- 15.3 Earthwool insulation must be released from the packaging and allowed to re-loft prior to installation. The time to loft will depend upon the length of time the product has been packaged and stored.
- 15.4 Earthwool insulation is supplied in batt, blanket and roll form [Table 1]. The batt products are sized to fit between standard framing centres. The product can be cut and fitted between framing centres to suit wall cavities and roof or ceiling framing. In wall cavities the insulation must be neatly friction-fitted between framing members to prevent sagging and thermal convection. In ceilings or roofs, the insulation must be continuous across the entire roof or ceiling plane between top plates of external walls, and fitted either between or over rafters, ceiling joists or truss chords. The insulation must be butted tightly so that the potential for gaps and convection heat loss is reduced.
- 15.5 The insulation must not be folded, tucked or compressed. A close, even fit provides the most efficient thermal performance. Wherever possible the insulation should be fitted beneath wiring or plumbing. Electrical installation requirements must be followed.
- 15.6 The clearance requirements for heating appliances and downlights must be followed and reference made to the BCA, local or national safety requirements.

Inspections

- 15.7 The Technical Literature, this Appraisal and AS 3999 must be referred to during the inspection of Earthwool insulation installations.

Health and Safety

- 16.1 When handling Earthwool insulation, it is recommended that installers follow the recommendations contained in the National Code of Practice for safe use of synthetic mineral fibres. A dust mask and eye protection is recommended when handling the product to provide protection from loose fibres and dust that may be disturbed. The Technical Literature contains additional health and safety information.
- 16.2 The fibre used to manufacture Earthwool glasswool insulation is certified to the European Certification Board for Mineral Wool Products [EUCEB].

Basis of Appraisal

The following is a summary of the technical investigations carried out:

Tests

- 17.1 BRANZ has carried out thermal resistance testing of Earthwool insulation in accordance with AS/NZS 4859.1.
- 17.2 Tests have been carried out in accordance with AS 1530.1. Earthwool insulation is not deemed combustible according to the test criteria. The results have been reviewed by BRANZ technical experts.

Other Investigations

- 18.1 An assessment of the durability of Earthwool insulation has been made by BRANZ technical experts.
- 18.2 The manufacturer's Technical Literature and Installation Instructions have been reviewed by BRANZ and found to be satisfactory.

Quality

- 19.1 The manufacture of Earthwool insulation has been examined by BRANZ, including methods adopted for quality control. Details of the manufacturing processes, and quality and composition of the raw materials used were obtained and found to be satisfactory.
- 19.2 Knauf Insulation Pty Limited is responsible for the quality of the product supplied.
- 19.3 Quality of installation of the product on site is the responsibility of the installer.
- 19.4 Maintenance of the building is the responsibility of the building owner.

Sources of Information

- AS 1530.1: 1994 Combustibility test for materials.
- AS 3999: 2015 Bulk thermal insulation - Installation.
- AS/NZS 4859.1: 2002 Materials for the thermal insulation of buildings.
- BRANZ House Insulation Guide, Fifth Edition 2014.
- National Construction Code Series, Building Code of Australia 2016, Australian Building Codes Board.



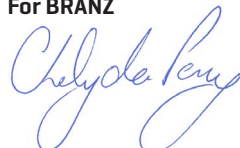
In the opinion of BRANZ, **Earthwool Insulation** is fit for purpose and will comply with the Building Code to the extent specified in this Appraisal provided it is used, designed, installed and maintained as set out in this Appraisal.

The Appraisal is issued only to **Knauf Insulation Pty Limited**, and is valid until further notice, subject to the Conditions of Appraisal.

Conditions of Appraisal

1. This Appraisal:
 - a) relates only to the product as described herein;
 - b) must be read, considered and used in full together with the Technical Literature;
 - c) does not address any Legislation, Regulations, Codes or Standards, not specifically named herein;
 - d) is copyright of BRANZ.
2. **Knauf Insulation Pty Limited:**
 - a) continues to have the product reviewed by BRANZ;
 - b) shall notify BRANZ of any changes in product specification or quality assurance measures prior to the product being marketed;
 - c) abides by the BRANZ Appraisals Services Terms and Conditions.
 - d) Warrants that the product and the manufacturing process for the product are maintained at or above the standards, levels and quality assessed and found satisfactory by BRANZ pursuant to BRANZ's Appraisal of the product.
3. BRANZ makes no representation or warranty as to:
 - a) the nature of individual examples of, batches of, or individual installations of the product, including methods and workmanship;
 - b) the presence or absence of any patent or similar rights subsisting in the product or any other product;
 - c) any guarantee or warranty offered by **Knauf Insulation Pty Limited**.
4. Any reference in this Appraisal to any other publication shall be read as a reference to the version of the publication specified in this Appraisal.
5. BRANZ provides no certification, guarantee, indemnity or warranty, to **Knauf Insulation Pty Limited** or any third party.

For BRANZ



Chelydra Percy

Chief Executive

Date of Issue:

01 December 2016