



LICENSED  
BUILDING  
PRACTITIONERS



# New insulation install guidance

Guidance on installing insulation in steel-framed homes and under concrete slabs are among the significant updates in NZS 4246:2016.



**THE NEW ZEALAND STANDARD** for installing insulation in residential buildings has gone through a major revision. The new standard is NZS 4246:2016 *Energy efficiency - Installing bulk thermal insulation in residential buildings*. This replaces NZS 4246:2006 *Energy efficiency - Installing insulation in residential buildings*.

NZS 4246:2016 provides guidance for the correct installation of insulation products by any installer, including DIY installers, to achieve high-quality and safe insulation installations in buildings.

#### **Updated standard gives guidance**

The standard has been updated and extended and now provides additional guidance on installing insulation:

- in steel-framed construction
- under concrete slabs on the ground
- around downlights.

Additional diagrams, photos and figures provide easy-to-understand, step-by-step guidelines for installing most types of insulation in new homes and for retrofitting insulation in existing residential buildings.

#### **Range of products covered**

Products and applications covered include:

- loose-fill products (such as wool, mineral wool or cellulose fibre) for insulating walls and ceilings
- segment and blanket products (such as polyester, wool or mineral wool) for insulating walls, ceilings and floors
- rigid sheet insulation products (such as expanded or extruded polystyrene (EPS or XPS) and polyisocyanurate (PIR)) for insulating walls, ceilings and floors

- semi-rigid insulation (such as wool, mineral wool or polyester) for insulating walls, ceilings and floors
- pipe insulation (such as preformed tubular foam)
- hot water cylinder wraps (such as wool, mineral wool or polyester blanket with cloth or foil backing)
- on-ground vapour barriers.

### **Ban on foil insulation retrofit or replacement**

Foil insulation continues to be excluded from the scope of the revised standard. A ban on retrofitting or replacing foil insulation in residential properties came into force on 1 July 2016 to reduce safety risks associated with installing this product.

Further information on the ban is available at [www.building.govt.nz](http://www.building.govt.nz) in *BC Update 188*.

### **Meeting everyone's needs**

Installing insulation correctly means it performs effectively and doesn't compromise the durability of the building or put the health and safety of installers and occupants at serious risk.

In addition, the standard is cited in the Residential Tenancies (Smoke Alarms and Insulation) Regulations 2016. If you have a rental property, it's important you read and comply with the standard when installing insulation in that property.

The revision of NZS 4246:2016 was commissioned by the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority. Familiarising yourself with this standard could be counted as skills maintenance where it is relevant in an elective sense! ◀

**For more** ▶ The revised standard is available free on MBIE's Tenancy Services website at [www.tenancy.govt.nz/maintenance-and-inspections/insulation/](http://www.tenancy.govt.nz/maintenance-and-inspections/insulation/).

### **Quiz**

1. NZS 4246:2016 updated and extended NZS 4246:2006 to include the installation of insulation in concrete slabs on the ground, in steel-framed installations and where else?
  - a. Rental properties.
  - b. Cars, trucks and trailers.
  - c. Around downlights.
2. What has been banned and is outside the scope of NZS 4246:2016?
  - a. Concrete slab insulation.
  - b. Foil insulation.
  - c. The Residential Tenancies Act.
  - d. Segmented and blanket products.
3. NZS 4246:2016 will guide you to do what?
  - a. Install insulation products correctly so they perform efficiently and are safe.
  - b. Choose the right insulation product for your situation.
  - c. Specify the correct amount of insulation for compliance.
  - d. Drive your car safely.

1. c. 2. b. 3. a.

**ANSWERS:**