Excerpts From The 2015 Minnesota Energy Code

Presented by

Peter Kulczyk

Green Code Knowledge LLC

www.greencodeknowledge.com pkulczyk1063@gmail.com

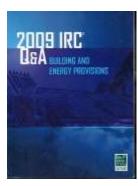
DLI Instructor Number I1645030

Portions of this publication reproduce excerpts from the 2012 International Residential Code and 2012 International Energy Conservation Code, International Code Council, Inc., Washington, D.C. Reproduced with permission. All rights reserved. Presentation is a copyrighted work owned by Peter Kulczyk and Green Code Knowledge LLC and no part of this work may be reproduced, distributed or transmitted in any form without advance written permission from Peter Kulczyk

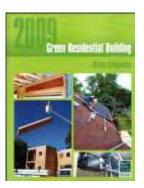
About Peter Kulczyk

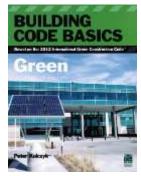
Green Code Knowledge LLC
International Code Council – Technical Staff & Author
State of Minnesota Building Code Division – Instructor
City of Blaine – Building Inspector
Various positions with five residential & commercial builders
Author of various published works by ICC & Delmar/Cengage

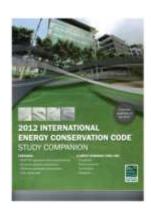












Adoption by Minnesota DLI

The Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) has announced that:

January 24, 2015 is the effective date for the **2015 Minnesota Residential Code**; and

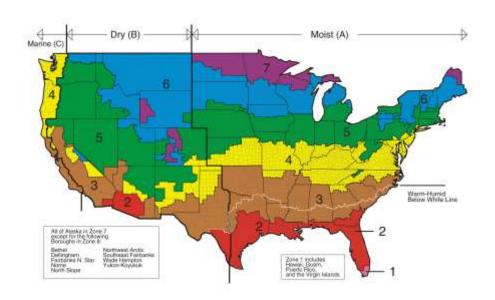
February 14, 2015 is the effective date for the **2015 Minnesota Residential Energy Code.**

Adoption by Minnesota DLI

The **2015 Minnesota Energy Code** is based on the 2012 International Energy Conservation Code with State of Minnesota amendments.

Referred to as Minnesota Rules 1322 or MR1322

2015 MINNESOTA ENERGY CODE



Building Thermal Envelope

Definition of Building Thermal Envelope:

The basement walls, exterior walls, floor, roof, and any other building elements that enclose conditioned space or provides a boundary between conditioned space and unconditioned space.





IRC Section R202

Air Barrier

Material assembled and joined together to provide a barrier to air leakage through the building envelope.







R-Value (thermal resistance)

Definition of R-Value:

The inverse of the time rate of heat flow through a body from one of its bounding surfaces to the other surface for a unit temperature difference between the two surfaces.

U-Factor (Thermal Transmittance)

Definition of U-Factor:

The coefficient of heat transmission (air to air) through a building component or assembly, equal to the time rate of heat flow per unit area and unit temperature difference between the warm side and the cold side air films.

Thermal Insulation Standards

Thermal insulation must shall conform to Minnesota Rules, Chapter 7640, Minnesota Thermal Insulation Standards, adopted by the Department of Commerce.

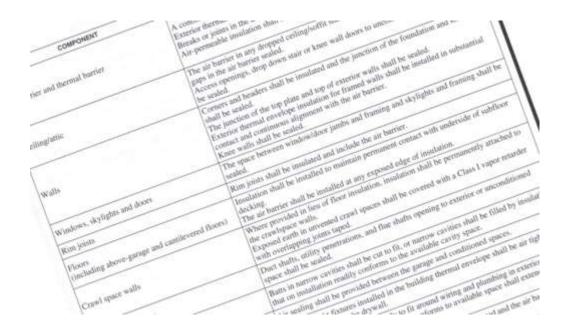
This chapter sets minimum standards for the product quality and safety of thermal insulation materials, testing procedures and installation.

The dwelling shall be tested and verified as having an air leakage rate of not exceeding 3 air changes per hour.

Testing shall be conducted with a blower door at a pressure of 0.2 inches water gauge (50 Pascals).

(continued)

Testing is to basically determine if there are leaks in the interior air barrier.



Where required by the code official, testing shall be conducted by an approved third party.

(continued)



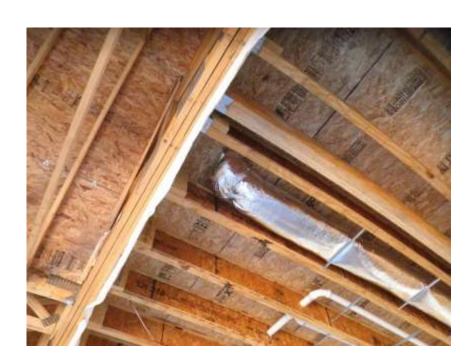
A written report of the results of the test shall be signed by the party conducting the test and provided to the code official.

Testing shall be performed at any time after creation of penetrations of the building thermal envelope.

Duct Sealing

Ducts, air handlers, and filter boxes shall be sealed.

(continued)



Duct Tightness

Duct tightness shall be verified by either:

Rough-in or post-construction total leakage shall be less than or equal to 4 cfm per 100 square feet of conditioned floor area when tested at a pressure differential of 0.1 inches water gauge (25 Pa) across the entire system, including the manufacturer's air handler enclosure. All register boots shall be taped and sealed during the test. (Or.....)

(continued)

Duct Tightness

Duct total leakage test <u>is not required</u> for ducts and air handlers located entirely within the building thermal envelope.



Inside



outside

Construction Documents

Construction documents shall include:

- Insulation materials and their R-values
- Fenestration U-factors and SHGC
- Mechanical system design criteria
- Service water heating type, size, & efficiency
- Duct sealing & location/insulation of ducts/pipes
- Air-sealing details

Prescriptive Thermal Envelope

The building thermal envelope shall meet the requirements of Table R402.1.1 with MN amendments. This table shown is the original, un-amended version.

TABLE R402.1.1
INSULATION AND FENESTRATION REQUIREMENTS BY COMPONENT®

CLIMATE	FENESTRATION U-FACTOR ⁵	SKYLIGHT [®] U-FACTOR	GLAZED FENESTRATION SHGC ^{b, e}	CEILING #-VALUE	WOOD FRAME WALL #-VALUE	MASS WALL #-VALUE	FLOOR R-VALUE	BASEMENT® WALL #-VALUE	SLAB ^d #-VALUE & DEPTH	CRAWL SPACE® WALL R-VALUE
1	NR	0.75	0.25	30	13	3/4	13	0	0	0
2	0.40	0.65	0.25	38	13	4/6	13	0	0	0
3	0.35	0.55	0.25	38	20 or 13+5h	8/13	19	5/13 ^t	0	5/13
4 except Marine	0.35	0.55	0.40	49	20 or 13+5h	8/13	19	10/13	10, 2 ft	10/13
5 and Marine 4	0.32	0.55	NR	49	20 or 13+5h	13/17	30 ⁸	15/19	10, 2 ft	15/19
6	0.32	0.55	NR	49	20+5 or 13+10h	15/20	30 ⁸	15/19	10, 4 ft	15/19
7 and 8	0.32	0.55	NR	49	20+5 or 13+10h	19/21	388	15/19	10, 4 ft	15/19

Ceiling Insulation

Climate Zone 6 7

Ceiling R-Value 49 49

This R-49 assumes that the insulation value is reduced at the exterior wall where there may only be a six-inch heel height, such as noted on the next slide.



MR 1322.0402

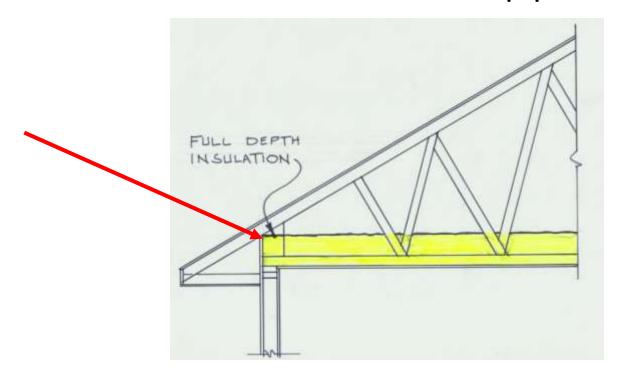
Ceiling Insulation

Roof/ceiling assemblies shall have a minimum six inch energy heel (measured at the outside face)



Ceiling Insulation

R-38 shall be deemed to satisfy the requirement for R-49 wherever the full height of uncompressed R-38 insulation extends over the wall top plate at the eave.



Ceiling Insulation Eave Baffle

For air permeable insulations in vented attics, a baffle shall be installed adjacent to soffit and eave vents.



Wall Insulation

Climate Zone 6 7

Wall R-Value *20 21

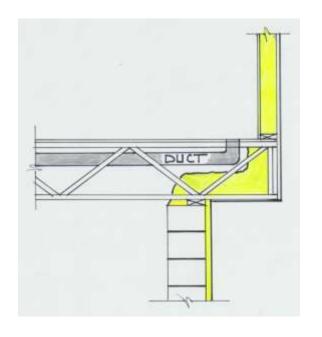
* R-13 + 5 insulated sheathing for 2×4 walls.

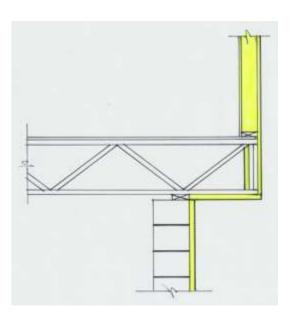


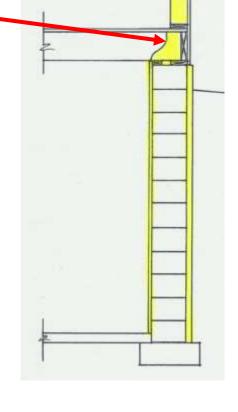
Rim Joist Insulation

Climate Zone 6 7

Rim Joist R-Value 20 21







MR 1322.0402

Floor Insulation

Climate Zone 6 7

Floor R-Value 30 38

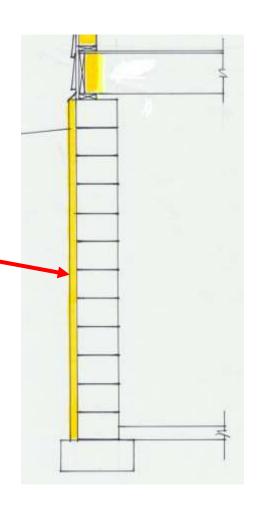
When the R-value above is not possible, Footnote "e" of Table R402.1.1 allows "or insulation sufficient to fill the framing cavity, R-19 minimum."

This section in the code really addresses scenarios such as **Bonus Rooms** above unconditioned spaces such as **Tuck-Under Garages**. (continued) MR 1322.0402

A minimum of R-15 insulation for concrete and masonry foundations shall be installed for both Climate Zones 6 and 7.

This R-15 could be installed entirely on the exterior side of the foundation wall. Or

(basement wall insulation continued)



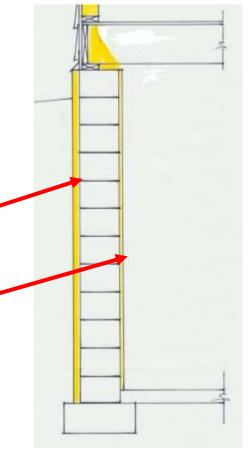
MR 1322.0402

This R-15 insulation could be split, with a minimum of a R-10 installed on the exterior side of the wall and at least R-5 insulation on the inside.

R-10 insulation on exterior side

R-5 insulation on interior side

(basement wall insulation continued)



MR 1322.0402

Basement wall interior insulation, other than closed cell spray foam, shall not exceed R-11.

(basement wall insulation continued)



R-10 continuous insulation on the exterior of each foundation wall shall be permitted (instead of the R-15) if the tested air leakage rate does not exceed 2.6 air changes per hour and ...(insulation continued)





MR 1322.0402

... and the top of each foundation wall does not exceed 1.5 multiplied by the total lineal feet of each foundation wall that encloses conditioned space.

This 1.5 provision was submitted by BAM and placed into the energy code after the MN DLI Energy Committee had completed their work on the code.



Basement walls associated with conditioned basements shall be insulated from the top of the basement wall down 10 feet below grade or to the top of the footing.





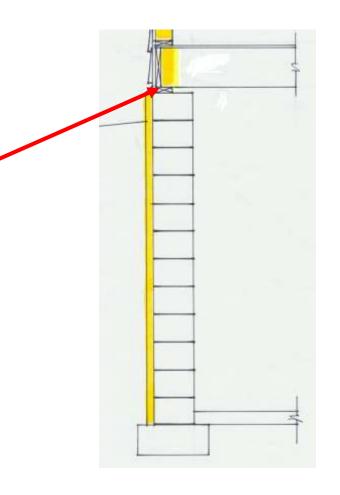
Cast-in-place concrete and masonry block foundation walls shall be waterproofed from the top interior wall edge, across the top of the wall, and down the exterior wall face to the top of the footing.

(exception to top of wall waterproofing follows on next slide)

If a full width, closed cell material is installed to create a seal between the sill plate and the top of the foundation wall, the installation is deemed to meet the requirements for the top of the wall waterproofing.

What does "closed cell" refer to?

(continued on next slide)



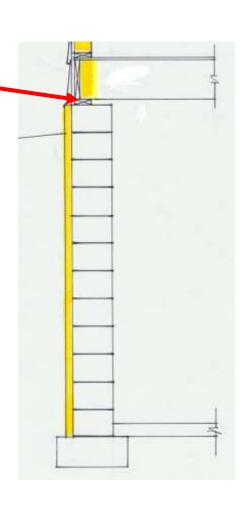
MR 1322.0402

What does "closed cell" refer to?

Does it make reference to the type of rim joist insulation? No.

This reference to "closed cell" was placed into the code language after the Committee work was done.

(refer to next slide for MN DLI and instructor opinion on this provision)



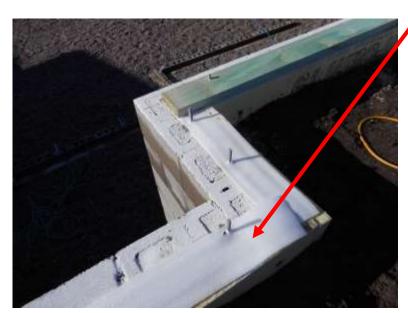
Instructor Opinion

According to DLI staff, the intent of this provision requires a top of wall foundation waterproofing material, such as Masonry paint (as shown in photograph), plus a standard foam type sill sealer (not fiberglass), as shown on next Slide.



(continued on next slide)

According to DLI staff, this standard foam sill sealer (not required to be a closed-cell sill sealer) is only required under the actual width of the sill plate and not the full width of the top of the foundation wall.



If the walls are exposed to the exterior environment, the waterproofing system shall have a rigid, opaque, and weather-resistant protective covering to prevent degradation of the waterproofing system... that extends a minimum of six inches below grade.



(basement wall insulation continued)

MR 1322.0402

Any <u>exterior draining</u> foundation insulation assembly installed on the exterior side shall:

First, what is considered "draining" insulation?





MR 1322.0402

Any <u>exterior draining</u> foundation insulation assembly installed on the <u>exterior</u> side shall:

- Be made of water-resistant materials
- Be installed according to the manufacturer
- All interior joints, edges and penetrations shall to be sealed against air and vapor penetration

(basement exterior wall insulation continued)

Any <u>exterior non-draining</u> foundation insulation assembly installed on the <u>exterior</u> side shall:

First, what is "non-draining" foundation insulation?





MR 1322.0402

Any <u>exterior non-draining</u> foundation insulation assembly installed on the <u>exterior</u> side shall:

- Be made of water-resistant materials
- Be installed according to the manufacturer
- Be covered with a 6 mil poly slip sheet over the entire exterior surface
- Have a protective coating that extends at least 6 inches below grade

(basement wall insulation continued)

Any foundation insulation assembly installed on the <u>interior</u> shall meet the following requirements:

 Masonry foundation walls shall be drained through each block core to an approved interior drain



(basement interior wall insulation continued)

Any foundation insulation assembly installed on the <u>interior</u> shall meet the following requirements:

- If a frame wall is installed, it shall not be in direct contact with the foundation wall
- The insulation assembly shall comply with the interior air barrier requirements of R402.4

(basement interior wall insulation continued)

Any <u>rigid interior insulation</u> assembly shall meet the following requirements:

- Insulation to be in contact with foundation wall
- Vertical edges shall be sealed with acoustic sealant
- All interior joints, edges and penetrations shall be sealed against air and water vapor penetration

(basement wall rigid interior insulation continued)

Any <u>rigid interior insulation</u> assembly shall meet the following requirements:

- Continuous acoustic sealant shall be applied horizontally between the foundation wall and the insulation at the top of the foundation wall
- Continuous acoustic sealant shall be applied horizontally between the basement floor and the bottom insulation edge
- All penetrations are to be sealed

Any <u>closed-cell spray-applied interior foam</u> insulation shall comply with the following requirements:

- Shall have a permeance not greater than 0.8 and not less than 0.3
- Shall be sprayed directly onto the foundation wall
- There shall be a 1-inch minimum gap between the foundation wall surface and the framing
- All penetrations are to be sealed

Any <u>open-cell spray-applied interior foam</u> insulation shall comply with the following requirements:

- Shall be sprayed directly onto the foundation wall
- There shall be a 1-inch minimum gap between the foundation wall surface and the framing
- All penetrations are to be sealed
- A vapor retarder and air barrier shall be applied to the warm side with a perm rating not greater than 1.0 and not less than 0.3 (check ES report)

Any <u>fiberglass batt</u> insulation installed on the <u>interior</u> side shall comply with the following requirements:

- The above-grade exposed foundation wall shall not exceed 1.5 feet
- The top and bottom plates shall be air sealed to the foundation wall surface and basement floor

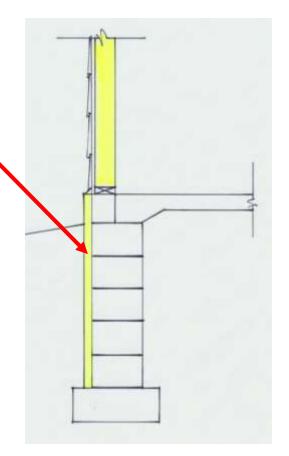
(fiberglass batt insulation on basement wall continued)

Any <u>fiberglass batt</u> insulation installed on the <u>interior</u> side shall comply with the following requirements:

- A vapor retarder and air barrier shall be applied to the warm side with a perm rating not greater than 1.0 and not less than 0.3 and it is to be sealed to the top and bottom plates and around all utility boxes and other penetrations
- All vapor retarder seams to be overlapped at least 6 inches and sealed

R-10 insulation for heated and non-heated slabs shall be installed to the depth indicated (42" or 60" frost depth) or to the top of the footing, whichever is less. (in previous proposed amendments, a reference was also made to R-5 inside that was amended out and no longer required)

This insulation can be installed on the exterior side as shown, or....



MR 1322.0402

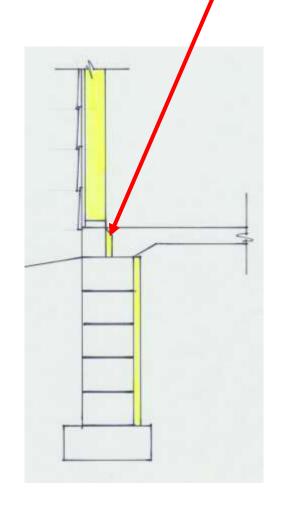
This R-10 insulation can be installed on the exterior side as shown on the previous slide, <u>or</u> on the interior side of the foundation wall as shown.

(interior slab-on-grade insulation is continued on next slide)



Question: If this R-10 insulation is installed on the interior side of the foundation wall, is the insulation required on the vertical plane between the top course of block (curb block) and the interior concrete slab?

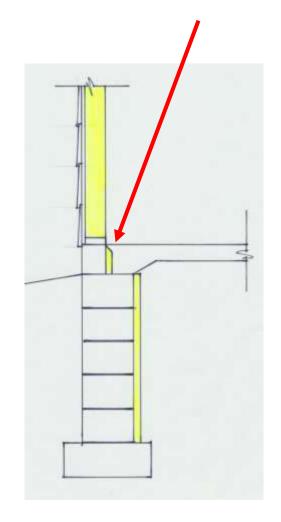
Answer: Yes. (continued)



MR 1322.0402

Can the R-10 insulation on the vertical plane between the top course of block (curb block) and the interior concrete slab be cut back at a 45 degree angle away from the exterior wall?

Yes. (refer to close-up photograph on next slide for this detail)



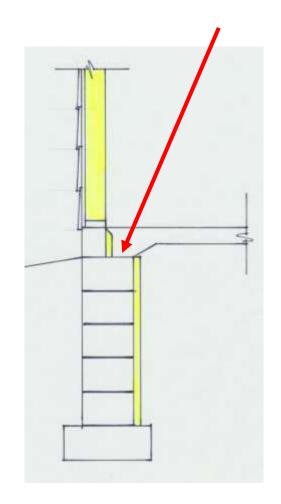
IECC R402.2.9

R-10 insulation on the vertical plane cut back at a 45 degree angle away from the exterior wall?



Question: If this R-10 insulation is installed on the interior side of the foundation wall, is the insulation required on the horizontal plane between the second course of block (from the top) and the bottom of the interior concrete slab?

Answer: No. (refer to photograph on next slide for this detail)



MR 1322.0402

Insulation is not required on the horizontal plane between the second course of block (from the top) and the bottom of the interior concrete slab.



Basement Insulation

Any insulation assembly installed integral to the foundation walls shall be manufactured for that intended use and installed according to the manufacturer's installation instructions.

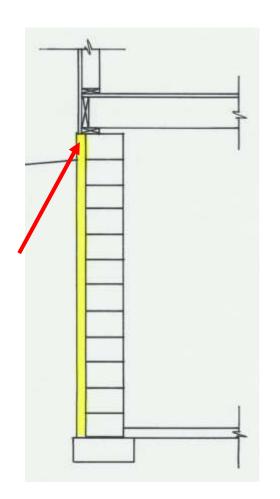
Example: ICF foundations



Basement Insulation

Designer should consider both building code and structural issues related to cantilevered sill plates.

The local Building Official would also need to be consulted as they will need to evaluate the design as an alternate to the prescriptive provisions of the code.



Instructor Opinion

A minimum R-value of 19 cavity insulation is required in wood foundation walls.



Thermal Envelope Glazing

Climate Zone 6

Fenestration U-Factor 0.32 0.32



Thermal Envelope Skylights

Climate Zone

6

7

Fenestration U-Factor

0.55

0.55

(skylights)



Vapor Retarders

Class I, Class II or Class III vapor retarders are required on the interior side of frame walls in Climate Zones 6 & 7.



(vapor retarders continued)



MR 1309.0702

Vapor Retarders

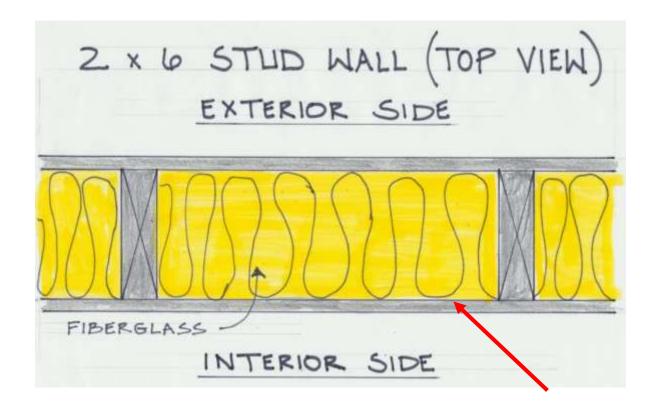
```
Class I vapor retarder 0.1 perm or less (example: poly or aluminum foil)
```

```
Class II 0.1 to 1.0 perm (Kraft-faced fiberglass batts)
```

Class III 1.0 to less than 10 perm (Latex or enamel paint)

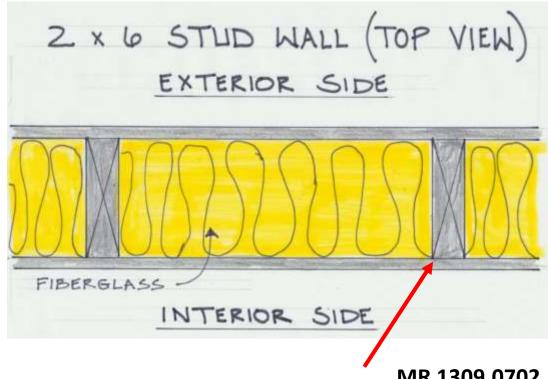
Vapor retarder required on warm-in-winter side.

(continued)



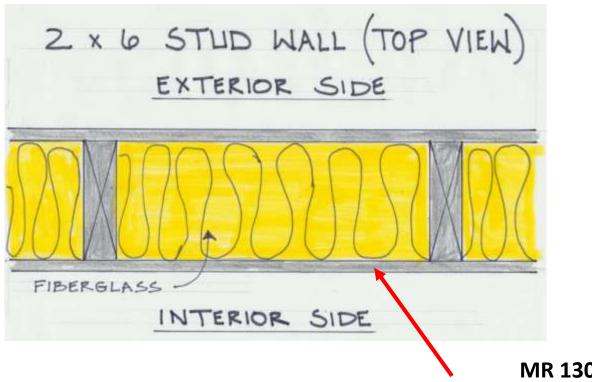
The "facing" of a fiberglass batt is not required to extend over the face of the stud.

(continued)



MR 1309.0702

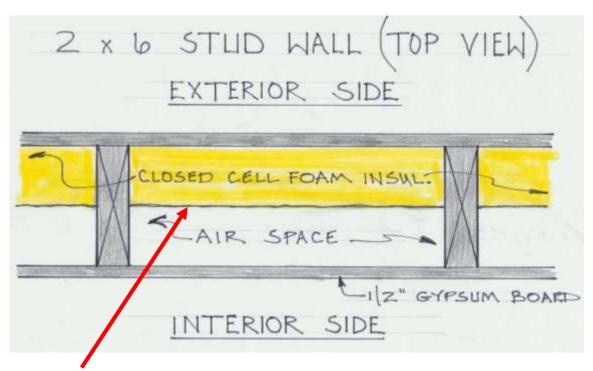
A poly vapor retarder is not required to be sealed unless it also serves as the continuous air barrier.



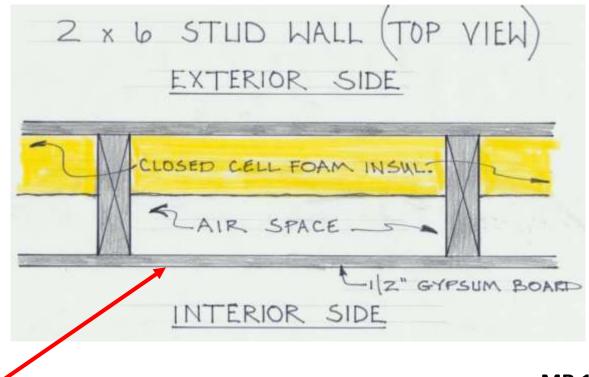
MR 1309.0702

Closed cell foam meeting the required R-value may already meet the requirement as a vapor retarder.

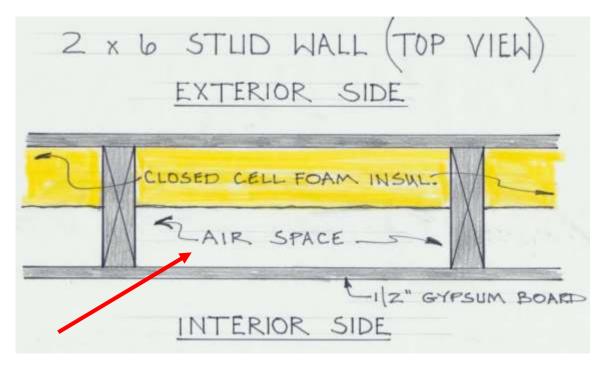
(continued)



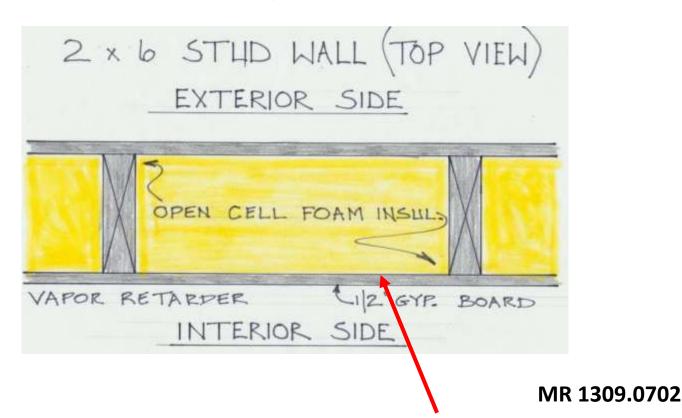
½ inch gypsum board is required to separate the foam from the interior. (continued)



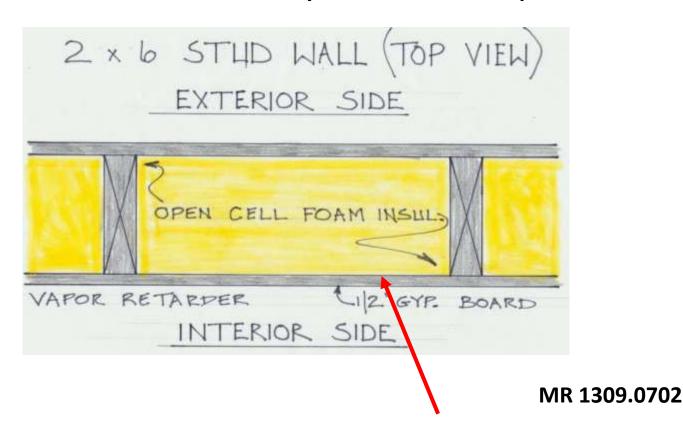
Considerations: Thermal barrier; Air space. (continued)



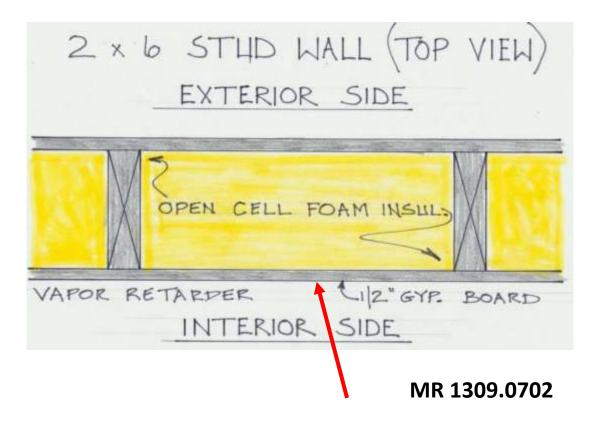
Open-cell spray foam will need a vapor retarder unless it qualifies as a Class III vapor retarder. (continued)



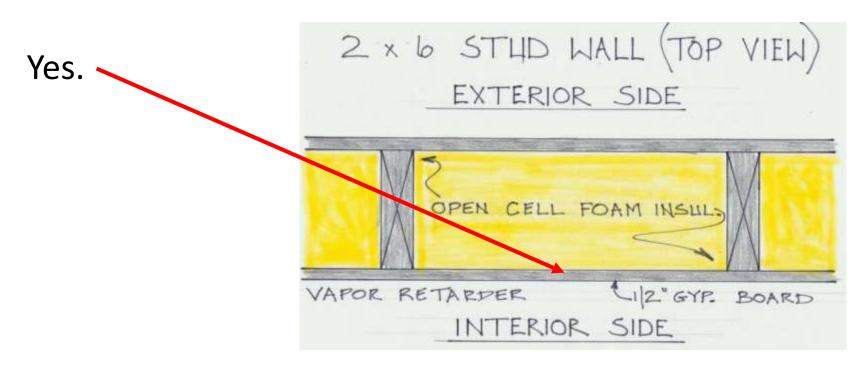
Open-cell spray foam may serve as the required air barrier within the stud cavity. Check ES report.



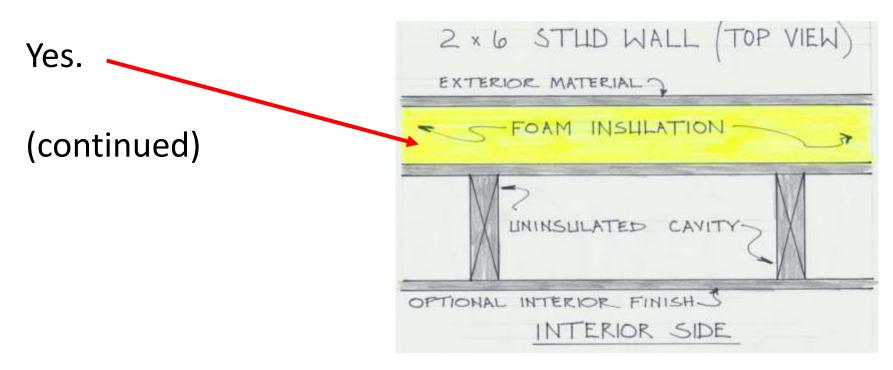
Open-cell spray foam needs to be covered with ½ inch gypsum board or equal thermal barrier.



Can the open-cell spray foam insulation be trimmed flush without negatively affecting the properties?

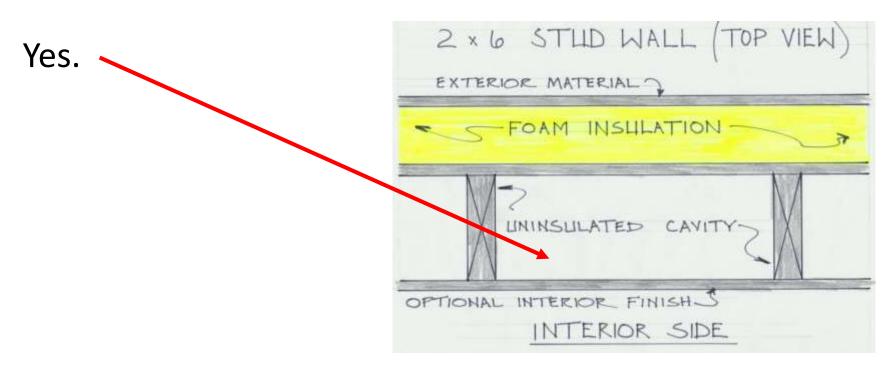


Could all of the required R-20 or R-21 insulation be placed on the exterior side of the wall framing?



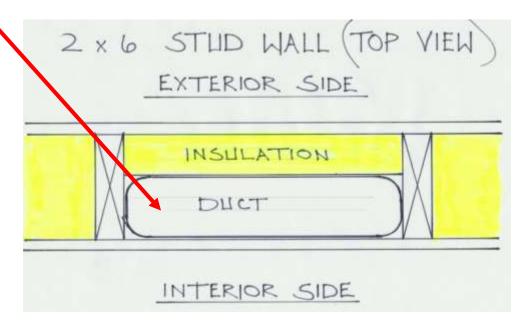
MR 1309.0702

If all of the insulation is on the exterior, can the wall cavity be left uninsulated?



Can ducts be placed within a 2 x 6 exterior wall stud cavity when R-10 foam insulation is placed between the duct and the exterior face of the wall?

Not unless there is at least R-20 or R-21 between the duct and the exterior cladding.



Vapor Retarders

The Minnesota code does not contain any provisions for vapor retarders for floors, such as bonus rooms, over unconditioned spaces, such as tuck-under garages.



Question: Are the interior walls of an attached garage required to have a vapor retarder when insulated.

Answer: No.



Duct Insulation

All exhaust, supply, and return air ducts and plenums shall be insulated:

Exterior of building	R-8
Attics, garages and ventilated crawl spaces Outdoor air intakes within conditioned spaces	R-8
	R-6
Exhaust ducts in attics, garages and crawl spaces	R-6
Exhaust ducts within conditioned spaces	R-6
Within cement slab or within ground	R-6

Masonry Veneer

Insulation shall not be required on the horizontal portion of the foundation that supports a masonry veneer.





MR 1322.0402

Unvented attic and unvented enclosed rafter assemblies ... shall be permitted if:

The unvented attic space or unvented enclosed rafter space is completely contained within the building thermal envelope.



Unvented attic and unvented enclosed rafter assemblies ... shall be permitted if:

No interior Class I vapor retarders are installed on the ceiling side of the unvented enclosed rafter assembly.

Unvented attic and unvented enclosed rafter assemblies ... shall be permitted if:

Where wood shingles or shakes are used, a minimum ¼ inch vented air space separates the shingles or shakes and the roofing underlayment above the structural shorthing.

sheathing.

Unvented attic and unvented enclosed rafter assemblies ... shall be permitted if:

When air-impermeable insulation is used, the insulation shall be applied in direct contact with the underside of the structural roof sheathing.



How does the code address "Bonus Rooms," also referred to as conditioned spaces, that are above tuck-under unconditioned residential garages?

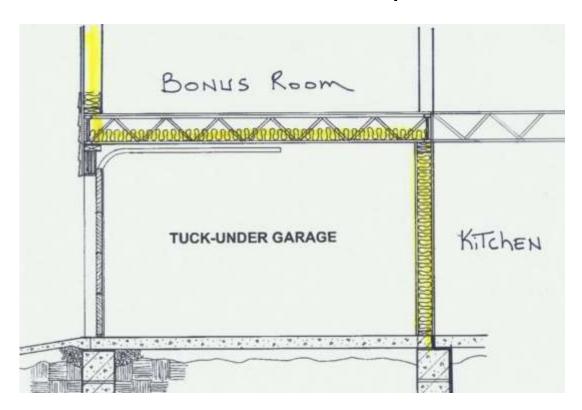


Bonus rooms have unique design issues such as:

- Air barriers
- Vapor management
- Ducts
- Insulation methods
- Best practices
- Durability
- Occupant comfort



- **Q** Where is the air barrier?
- **Q** Where does the conditioned space start?

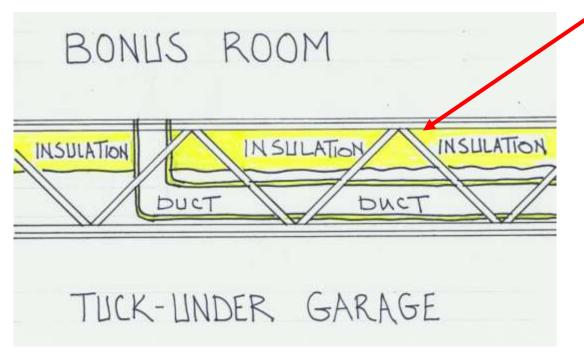


Q - What types of insulation can be used within the floor area above unconditioned garages?



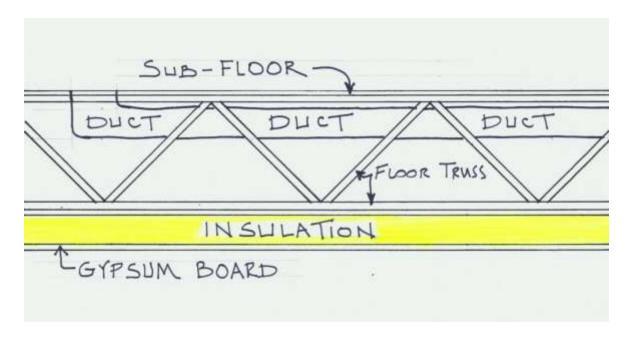
Bonus Rooms (example)

Floor insulation shall be installed to maintain permanent contact with the underside of the sub-floor decking. (This duct is outside of conditioned space). <u>But</u>,

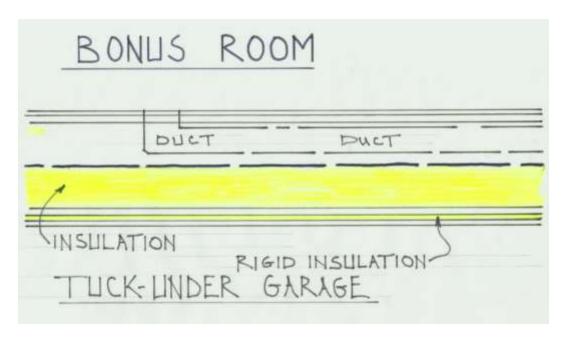


IECC Sect R402.2.7

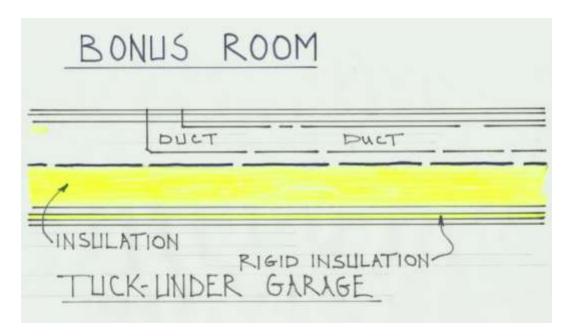
- R-30 (or R-38) rigid foam plastic on bottom
- Sealed (uninsulated) duct (within conditioned space)
- No insulation in floor cavity.



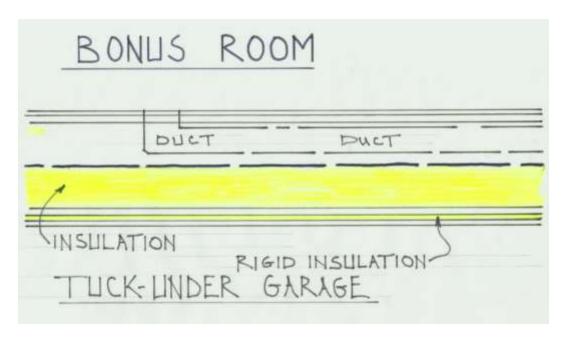
- Spray-foam insulation within bottom of truss space
- Rigid insulation on bottom side of truss
- Sealed (uninsulated) duct (within conditioned space)



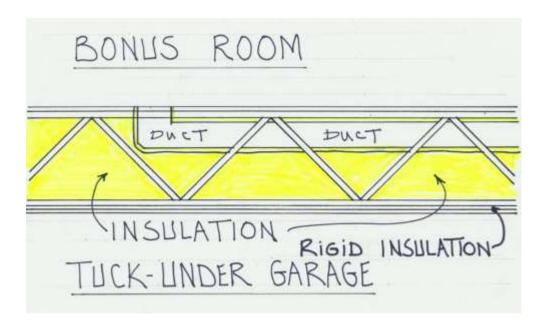
- Fiberglass insulation within bottom of truss space
- Rigid insulation on bottom side of truss
- Sealed (uninsulated) duct (within conditioned space)



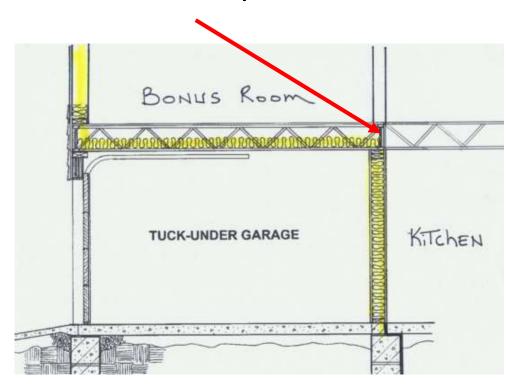
- Cellulose insulation within bottom of truss space
- Rigid insulation on bottom side of truss
- Sealed (uninsulated) duct (within conditioned space)



- Air-permeable or air-impermeable insulation (filled)
- Rigid insulation on bottom side of truss.
- Sealed duct (within conditioned space)
 (This floor might be cooler than previous examples)



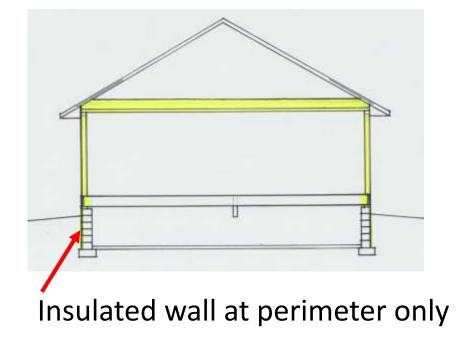
Should the floor cavity between the bonus room and adjoining rooms be left open or sealed closed?

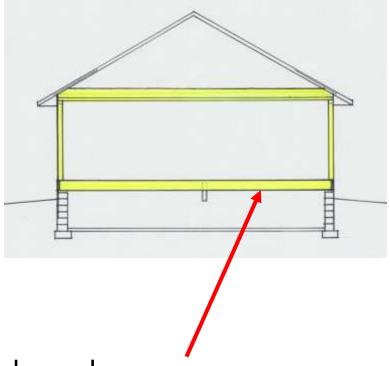


Crawl Space - Examples

Conditioned

Unconditioned





Insulated floor above unconditioned crawl space

Questions?

Peter Kulczyk

State of MN Instructor # I1645030

pkulczyk1063@gmail.com www.greencodeknowledge.com 763.267.1139

Radar Operator onboard USS Reasoner (DE 1063)

