

Insulation



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Why install insulation?

Heat gain in summer and heat loss in winter through the ceiling accounts for around 30 % of total heat exchange. Another 10-20 % is lost through the walls. Insulation keeps your home cooler in summer and warmer in winter and this means lower energy bills and less greenhouse gas pollution from heating and cooling your home.

Climate change means summer heatwaves are going to be more severe, and with the cost of electricity going up, installing insulation will maximise the comfort of your home and keep your energy bills in check.

Even if you already have insulation, it can be worth topping up or replacing if it has been there for many years because it can settle and lose its effectiveness. Also much of the insulation installed to meet minimum building standards was just the minimal amount, and your home is likely to benefit from a top up.

How does it work?

Insulation works by slowing down the transfer of heat from inside your house to outside and visa-versa. This means in summer you can keep cool air inside longer and in winter it is easier to keep the heat in. That way even if you use heaters or air-conditioners, they won't be needed for as many days, or for as many hours, and this can reduce your energy bill as well as greenhouse gas emissions.

Insulation can be installed in ceilings as well as walls and even under floorboards. It is important to combine insulation with passive cooling techniques such as window shading and ventilation to reduce any 'oven effect' from poor building design.

The R-Value refers to the ability of a material to resist heat transfer. For Melbourne, we recommend the minimum ceiling insulation is R 3.7, and wall insulation should be R 2.2.

It is a requirement for the Federal Government rebates that insulation is installed by a professional. More info about choosing and installing insulation can be found here:

> www.yourhome.gov.au/technical/pubs/fs47.pdf

How you can get it

Right now, getting ceiling insulation installed is very affordable or could even be free with the \$1 200 Federal Government rebate. The installer charges the government directly so you don't even have to pay the upfront cost.

The initial phase of the insulation program which ran from 3 February 2009 to 31 August 2009 was covered by separate guidelines, and if you installed ceiling insulation in that time you may be eligible for a rebate under those Early Installation guidelines.

The rebate offer is for homeowners, renters, and landlords.

The program is suitable for homes without insulation, or with insulation of "little or no effectiveness". This excludes homes built after 2003 (when mandatory thermal performance requirements were instituted).

To be eligible:

- The home must be your principal place of residence.
- Your insulation must be installed by one of the insulation installers listed on the Installer Provider Register:

> <http://apps.nowwhere.com.au/dewha/installersearch>

For tenants:

- You must have written permission from the landlord.
- If in an apartment or unit, permission may also be required from your owners' corporation.

Available until 31 December 2011 or until available funding is exhausted (whichever comes first).

For further information about insulation rebates

> www.environment.gov.au/energyefficiency/insulation

> Or call the Energy Efficient Homes Hotline on 1800 808 571