

ATTIC INSULATION — A COMPLETE GUIDE TO CHOOSING THE BEST INSULATION PRODUCTS

Attic Insulation Guide

Proper attic insulation is an easy way to regulate your home's temperature. But choosing the right material can be a difficult challenge. Many types of insulation are available, and you may not be familiar with them all — especially if you're a first-time homeowner. A material that's right for a neighbor's attic might not suit yours. So how are you supposed to choose the best attic insulation?

Below, you can learn about the various attic insulation types and discover which is suitable for your home.

FIBERGLASS BATT ATTIC INSULATION

Many people consider fiberglass batt to be the best attic insulation. It consists of plastic reinforced by tiny glass fibers. The batt version comes in blanket form — i.e., small, pre-cut sections that you can lay down wherever needed.

You must exhibit caution when installing this material, as it's a common lung and skin irritant. You should always wear pants, a long-sleeve shirt, a face mask, gloves, and protective eyewear. The glass found in fiberglass is often made from sand and recycled glass, so it can benefit the environment (as long as you shop intentionally).

PROS

- Cheap compared to other options
- Suited for areas that are free from obstructions

CONS

- Not as effective at heat retention as other materials
- It may cause skin irritation during installation

OUR TOP PICK

Best Batt Attic Insulation - Johns Manville

Our top pick for this material type is the Johns Manville Batt Insulation. This R-30 insulation is formaldehyde-free fiber glass insulation protected on one side with moisture-resistant Kraft facing.

The batts come in pre-cut 48-inch lengths for easy installation in 16-in., 2-in. x 10-in. attics and ceilings. One bag covers 58.67 sq. ft.

Wondering if this option is right for you? Schedule an attic inspection [here](#) to get a quote!

FIBERGLASS ROLL ATTIC INSULATION

Another type of attic insulation, fiberglass roll, is the same material as the abovementioned type. It features tiny pieces of glass reinforced by plastic, but its form is slightly different. The rolled version comes in longer pieces that you can roll out.

The roll is easy to transport, and you can cut it to the appropriate lengths. Remember that the batts version offers more square feet per package than rolls.

PROS

- Suited for wide-open areas
- It comes in lengths varying between 20 and 40 feet
- Leaves fewer chances for gaps

CONS

- Fewer square feet per package than batts
- Not the most effective at heat retention

OUR TOP PICK

Best Roll Attic Insulation - Owens Corning

Our top pick for the best attic insulation for fiberglass roll is the Owens Corning EcoTouch. This product has advanced fiber technology that allows for quick, precise installs. It's also shed-resistant, avoiding some of the problems associated with traditional fiberglass materials. If you don't want to install this product yourself, click [here](#) to schedule an attic inspection and receive a quote.

CELLULOSE ATTIC INSULATION

Cellulose attic insulation features recycled paper products. Some homeowners may be wary of this material as they fear it'll present a fire hazard down the line. If you decide to invest in this type of insulation, look for a manufacturer that adds borate or ammonium sulfate. These compounds make the material resistant to fires and insects, meaning you can create a safer and healthier living space for your family.

Cellulose is much denser than fiberglass, so it'll provide better heat retention in the winter and cool air retention in the summer. Because cellulose consists mainly of recycled materials, many homeowners consider it an eco-friendly option.

PROS

- Environmentally friendly
- Denser than fiberglass
- Resistant to fires and insects

CONS

- The installation process leads to a lot of dust

OUR TOP PICK

Best Cellulose Attic Insulation - **Green Fiber**

Our top pick for cellulose attic insulation is the 25-pound bag from Greenfiber. It lowers your cooling and heating costs by up to 20% and reduces sound power by 60%. The new-and-improved formula is suitable for all climates, so there's no need to consider your area's year-round weather conditions.

If you'd like professional help with the installation process, schedule an appointment for a free quote today!

LOOSE-FILL FIBERGLASS ATTIC INSULATION

Fiberglass is one of the best attic insulation materials, and it's available in various forms. We've already discussed the batts and roll forms, both of which involve flat, pre-cut sections. But fiberglass is also available in loose-fill or blown-in form. You'll need special equipment to blow this material into place, so most homeowners decide to hire a professional for the task. The material easily fills wall cavities and oddly shaped areas, as it doesn't come in pre-cut dimensions.

PROS

- Best for oddly shaped areas
- Can fill wall cavities
- Quick installation process

CONS

- Requires special machinery

OUR TOP PICK

Best Blown In Attic Insulation - Johns Manville

Our top pick for loose-fill fiberglass attic insulation is the Johns Manville Attic Protector Fiberglass Blown-in Insulation. It covers nearly 110 square feet per bag and delivers an R-value of R-19. It receives a gold certification from Greenguard and is SCS-certified for home indoor air quality.

Are you looking to hire a professional for the task? Schedule an attic inspection and get your free quote today!

SPRAY FOAM ATTIC INSULATION

[Ed, are we going to try and avoid mentioning this type of insulation – is it discouraged at the time of the inspection?]

Spray foam attic insulation usually features one of three types of plastic: polyurethane, polyisocyanurate, or polystyrene. You or a professional can install foam insulation by spraying it or installing it into stiff foam boards. Some installers prefer to use cement-based foam, known as cementitious foam insulation.

This attic insulation offers some of the best performance available, filling all the crannies in your attic's flooring and walls.

PROS

- Best performing material
- Choose from your preferred installation method
- Doesn't take long to complete

CONS

- One of the most expensive options

OUR TOP PICK

Best Spray Foam Attic Insulation - Froth-Pak 650

Our number one pick for spray foam attic insulation is the Dow Froth Pak 650. This kit is the moisture barrier closed-cell type, which is preferable to the open-cell type. It prevents air leaks, minimizes the risk of mold and mildew, and possesses a Class A Fire Rating for your peace of mind.

Get it professionally installed by scheduling an attic inspection and requesting a quote!

REFLECTIVE INSULATION & RADIANT BARRIER

While other materials slow conductive heat flow, reflective insulation systems, and radiant barriers reduce radiant heat gain. A radiant barrier will block radiant heat, but a reflective insulation product will help you control condensation and achieve a specific R-value if you need to meet your building's regulations.

Keep in mind that the reflective surface should always face an air space for optimal efficiency, and you should minimize dust accumulation to enhance the surface's reflective capabilities.

PROS

- Can reduce attic temperatures up to 30°F
- Effective in hot climates
- It also works as a vapor barrier

CONS

- Need to keep it free of dust

OUR TOP PICK

Our number one choice for this type of material is eShield™. This insulation dramatically increases comfort in residential and commercial applications by reducing radiant heat gain. Able to stop more than 97 percent of radiant heat, eShield™ multilayer reflective foil insulation is an exceptionally efficient and innovative solution to thermal insulation needs. This product comes with a three-layer composite comprised of a perforated foil facing, a Microlite fiberglass core, and a reflective foil facing to help significantly reduce cooling and heating costs.

Are you looking for professional installation? Be sure to schedule an appointment today and get an estimate!