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How to Document Rigid Insulation

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1. What is the key difference between conductive materials and insulators in terms of heat flow?

Conductive materials have poor resistance to heat flow, while insulators have strong resistance.

2. What is the difference between a product R-value and a total R-value?

The product R-value refers to the thermal resistance of a single insulation product alone, while the total R-value accounts for all layers in a building assembly.

3. What is rigid insulation and how does it differ from other insulation types?

A firm, self-supporting board product that maintains its shape and thickness under load. Unlike batts or blankets, it won't compress or sag, ensuring consistent thermal performance over time.

4. What role do blowing agents play in the composition of rigid insulation?

Blowing agents are gases introduced during manufacturing that create the closed-cell structure within rigid insulation boards. These trapped gases have very low thermal conductivity, which is what gives rigid insulation its superior insulating performance compared to open-cell products.

5. What is a warm roof and how is it constructed?

In a warm roof, thermal insulation is placed above the structure, with a vapour control layer between the substrate and the insulation. A waterproofing membrane is then laid on top to protect the insulation.

6. What is the difference between thermoplastic and thermoset insulation when exposed to fire?

Thermoplastic insulation softens, melts, drips and produces thick black smoke. Thermoset insulation hardens and chars, does not melt and produces significantly less smoke.