



BRANZ Appraised
Appraisal No. 1009 [2018]

SNUG INSULATION



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BRANZ Appraisals

Technical Assessments of products for building and construction.



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Product

- 1.1 Snug Insulation is a blend of sheep's wool and polyester fibre used as a thermal insulation material for use in walls, ceilings and roofs of buildings.

Scope

- 2.1 Snug Insulation has been appraised as a thermal insulating material for framed or part-framed walls, ceilings and roofs of domestic and commercial buildings.

Building Regulations

New Zealand Building Code (NZBC)

- 3.1 **In the opinion of BRANZ, Snug Insulation if designed, used, installed and maintained in accordance with the statements and conditions of this Appraisal, will meet or contribute to meeting the following provisions of the NZBC:**

Clause B2 DURABILITY: Performance B2.3.1 [a] not less than 50 years and B2.3.1 [b] 15 years. Snug Insulation meets these requirements. See Paragraph 8.1.

Clause E3 INTERNAL MOISTURE: Performance E3.3.1. Snug Insulation will contribute to meeting this requirement. See Paragraphs 12.1 and 12.2.

Clause F2 HAZARDOUS BUILDING MATERIALS: Performance F2.3.1. Snug Insulation meets this requirement and will not present a health hazard to people.

Clause H1 ENERGY EFFICIENCY: Performance H1.3.1 [a] and H1.3.2 E. Snug Insulation will contribute to meeting these requirements. See Paragraphs 14.1 and 14.2.

Technical Specification

Wool Blend Insulation

- 4.1 Snug Insulation is a thermally bonded mixture of 60% coloured sheep's wool fibres sourced from manufacturers of woollen products, and 40% thermally bonded polyester fibres. The wool and polyester fibres are blended, carded and thermally bonded to produce blankets which are then slit to the required width, compressed and packaged. Snug Insulation is available as set out in Table 1.

Table 1: Snug Insulation product range

R-value	Nominal thickness [mm]	Width [mm]	Length [mm]	Area [m ²]	Density [kg/m ³]
2.2	90	580	6890	12.0	23.4
3.2	180	870	6900	12.0	12.4

* Insulation must not be fitted into fully enclosed cavities that are less than the labelled insulation nominal thickness.

- 4.2 Snug Insulation is grey in colour and is compression packed in clear polythene bags with labelling in compliance with AS/NZS 4859.1.
- 4.3 Accessories used with Snug Insulation, which are supplied by the insulation installer, are wire netting, plastic strapping and associated fixings.

Handling and Storage

- 5.1 Snug Insulation must be stored under cover and in dry conditions. Heavy objects must not be stacked on the packs. The packs must be stored in an orientation that avoids excessive compression of the product.
- 5.2 Compression packaged wool is subjected to a maximum combination of compression density and storage time after which the product may not loft to its nominal thickness and therefore may not achieve its designed thermal performance.
- 5.3 In general, insulation products are sensitive to the length of time they are stored under compression packaging. Product that does not recover to its nominal thickness may not achieve the stated R-value.

Technical Literature

- 6.1 Refer to the Appraisals listing on the BRANZ website for details of the current Technical Literature for Snug Insulation. The Technical Literature must be read in conjunction with this Appraisal. All aspects of design, use, installation and maintenance contained in the Technical Literature and within the scope of this Appraisal must be followed.

Design Information

General

- 7.1 Snug Insulation is intended for use as thermal insulation to meet the requirements of the NZBC. Snug Insulation can be used to meet the minimum schedule method R-values of NZBC Verification Method H1/VM1 or NZBC Acceptable Solution H1/AS1. Greater construction R-values can be achieved where specific design is used. For construction R-values refer to the BRANZ House Insulation Guide. Product R-values and dimensions are given in Table 1.
- 7.2 Snug Insulation thermal resistance [R-value] has been determined by testing to AS/NZS 4859.1, which is an acceptable method in NZBC Acceptable Solution H1/AS1.

- 7.3 Snug Insulation is designed to be friction-fitted between wall, ceiling or roof framing. It can also be laid directly on a ceiling lining, over ceiling battens or joists/truss chords. In other horizontal situations, it must be adequately supported by galvanised wire netting or some other durable material.
- 7.4 Subject to the maximum compression density and storage conditions not being exceeded, all products covered by this Appraisal should recover to their nominal thickness within 72 hours after being removed from their compressed bales.
- 7.5 Where the insulation is installed in exterior walls, the nominal thickness of the insulation material must be selected to provide a snug close fit which touches all sides of the insulation cavity between the wall underlay and the interior wall lining.
- 7.6 Where the insulation is installed with a drained cavity, it is recommended that specific wall products with a controlled nominal thickness be used. Where the stud spacings are greater than 450 mm, an intermediate means of restraining the insulation from bulging into the cavity must be installed in accordance with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Paragraph 9.1.8.5.
- 7.7 To prevent moisture transfer and to provide roof ventilation, a separation of 25 mm minimum is required between the insulation and any rigid substrate or flexible roof underlay. Selecting specifically designed skillion roof insulation products with a controlled nominal thickness can assist with this requirement.
- 7.8 The building envelope must be constructed to ensure the insulation remains dry during installation and throughout the life of the building.
- 7.9 The clearance requirements for heating appliances and downlights must be met and reference made to the manufacturers instructions and NZS 4246. See Paragraphs 10.1 - 10.3.

Durability

Serviceable Life

- 8.1 Where the building is maintained so that provisions of NZBC Clause E2 and E3 are met, and where the insulation is not crushed or exposed to conditions that will diminish its thermal performance (e.g. moisture), Snug Insulation can expect to have a serviceable life of at least 50 years.

Maintenance

- 9.1 Insulation that has become damp must be removed and the cause of dampness repaired. Cavities must be clean and dry before fitting new insulation of an equivalent thermal rating. NZS 4246 gives guidance on thermal insulation maintenance due to water damage.

Prevention of Fire Occurring

- 10.1 Separation or protection must be provided to Snug Insulation from heat sources such as fire places, heating appliances, flues, chimneys and recessed luminaires. Refer to Part 7 of NZBC Acceptable Solution C/AS1 to C/AS6 and NZBC Verification Method C/VM1.

Downlights

- 10.2 Recessed luminaires shall be of type and be installed in accordance with NZBC Acceptable Solution C/AS1 to C/AS6 Section 7.4.
- 10.3 Insulation materials must maintain a clearance of 100 mm to undefined recessed luminaires in existing buildings.

Control of Internal Fire and Smoke Spread

- 11.1 The completed wall and ceiling system, including the surface lining product enclosing the Snug Insulation from the adjacent occupied space, must achieve the Group Number for internal surface finish requirements as specified in the relevant NZBC Acceptable Solution C/AS1 to C/AS6.



External Moisture

- 12.1 The total building envelope must be weathertight and comply with the requirements of NZBC Clause E2 to ensure that the insulation remains dry in use.
- 12.2 The moisture content of the construction materials at the time of enclosing the insulation must meet the requirements of NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Paragraph 10.2 (a), or lower moisture content if required by the lining manufacturer.

Internal Moisture

- 13.1 Buildings must provide an adequate combination of thermal resistance, ventilation and space temperature to all habitable spaces, bathrooms, laundries and other spaces where moisture may be generated or may accumulate. This does not apply to Communal Non-residential, Commercial, Industrial Outbuildings or Ancillary buildings.
- 13.2 Roofs and walls of housing complying with the Schedule Method for Compliance with Clause H1.3.2 E will have adequate thermal resistance. Other buildings may require more thermal insulation to satisfy the requirements of NZBC Acceptable Solution E3/AS1 than that to satisfy the energy efficiency provisions alone.

Energy Efficiency

- 14.1 Snug Insulation will contribute to meeting the requirements of NZBC Clause H1, Performance H1.2.1 (a) and H1.3.2 E by compliance with NZBC Verification Method H1/VM1 or NZBC Acceptable Solution H1/AS1. Refer to Paragraphs 7.1 - 7.7.
- 14.2 Snug Insulation R-values have been determined by BRANZ testing to AS/NZS 4859.1 and are given in Table 1.

Installation Information

Installation Skill Level Requirements

- 15.1 Installation of Snug Insulation must be completed by an understanding of insulation installation.

General

- 16.1 Installation of Snug Insulation must be in accordance with the Technical Literature, installation instructions and this Appraisal. NZS 4246 should be used as a guide for installing insulation in residential buildings.
- 16.2 The product must be installed only when the building is enclosed and when the construction materials have achieved the required maximum moisture content or less.
- 16.3 Snug Insulation must be released from the packaging and allowed to re-loft prior to installation. The time to loft will depend upon the length of time the product has been packaged and stored.
- 16.4 Snug Insulation is supplied in roll from [see Table 1] to suit framing layouts. The product is able to be cut to suit wall cavities and when fitted between roof or ceiling framing. The insulation must be neatly friction-fitted between framing members so that the potential for gaps and convective heat loss is reduced. In wall cavities the insulation must be neatly friction-fitted between framing members to prevent sagging. In ceiling or roofs, the insulation may be fitted between framing members and butted tightly. The insulation must extend to the external wall top plate. The insulation must not be folded or compressed. A close even fit provides the most efficient thermal performance. Whenever possible, the insulation should be fitted beneath wiring or plumbing.
- 16.5 The clearance requirements for heating appliances and downlights must be followed. Refer also to NZS 4246.

Inspections

- 16.6 The Technical Literature, this Appraisal and NZS 4246 must be referred to during the inspection of Snug Insulation installations.



Health and Safety

17.1 Snug Insulation is easy to handle. NZS 4246 gives guidance for health and safety requirements such as personal protective clothing and installation hazard assessment.

Basis of Appraisal

The following is a summary of the technical investigations carried out:

Tests

18.1 BRANZ has carried out thermal resistance testing of Snug Insulation in accordance with AS/NZS 4859.1.

Other Investigations

- 19.1 An assessment of the durability of Snug Insulation has been made by BRANZ technical experts.
- 19.2 The manufacturer's Technical Literature and installation instructions have been reviewed by BRANZ and found to be satisfactory.
- 19.3 Site inspections have been undertaken by BRANZ to assess the practicability of installation.

Quality

- 20.1 The manufacture of Snug Insulation has been examined by BRANZ, including methods adopted for quality control. Details of the manufacturing processes, and quality and composition of the raw materials used were obtained and found to be satisfactory.
- 20.2 Textile Products 1971 Limited is responsible for the quality of the product supplied.
- 20.3 Quality of installation of the product on site is the responsibility of the installer.
- 20.4 Quality of maintenance of the building to ensure the insulation material remains dry is the responsibility of the building owner.

Sources of Information

- AS/NZS 4859.1: 2002 Materials for the thermal insulation of buildings.
- NZS 4246: 2016 Energy efficiency – Installing bulk thermal insulation in residential buildings.
- BRANZ House Insulation Guide, Fifth Edition 2014.
- BRANZ Bulletin Number 525 Preventing moisture problems in timber-framed skillion roofs.
- Acceptable Solution and Verification Methods for New Zealand Building Code Energy Efficiency Clause H1, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, Fourth Edition, [including Amendment 3, 1 January 2017].
- Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment record of Amendments – Acceptable Solutions, Verification Methods and Handbooks.
- The Building Regulations 1992.



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In the opinion of BRANZ, **Snug Insulation** is fit for purpose and will comply with the Building Code to the extent specified in this Appraisal provided it is used, designed, installed and maintained as set out in this Appraisal.

The Appraisal is issued only to **Textile Products 1971 Ltd**, and is valid until further notice, subject to the Conditions of Appraisal.

Conditions of Appraisal

1. This Appraisal:
 - a) relates only to the product as described herein;
 - b) must be read, considered and used in full together with the Technical Literature;
 - c) does not address any Legislation, Regulations, Codes or Standards, not specifically named herein;
 - d) is copyright of BRANZ.
2. **Textile Products 1971 Ltd**:
 - a) continues to have the product reviewed by BRANZ;
 - b) shall notify BRANZ of any changes in product specification or quality assurance measures prior to the product being marketed;
 - c) abides by the BRANZ Appraisals Services Terms and Conditions;
 - d) warrants that the product and the manufacturing process for the product are maintained at or above the standards, levels and quality assessed and found satisfactory by BRANZ pursuant to BRANZ's Appraisal of the product.
3. BRANZ makes no representation or warranty as to:
 - a) the nature of individual examples of, batches of, or individual installations of the product, including methods and workmanship;
 - b) the presence or absence of any patent or similar rights subsisting in the product or any other product;
 - c) any guarantee or warranty offered by **Textile Products 1971 Ltd**.
4. Any reference in this Appraisal to any other publication shall be read as a reference to the version of the publication specified in this Appraisal.
5. BRANZ provides no certification, guarantee, indemnity or warranty, to **Textile Products 1971 Ltd** or any third party.

For BRANZ

Chelydra Percy

Chief Executive

Date of Issue:

15 June 2018