

**Ask Jon Eakes**

# **LOOSE FILL BLOWN IN: CELLULOSE**

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Common Name: Cellulose Fiber, ground up newspapers.

Colour: Grey or white.

Thermal Resistance: RSI - .025/mm R - 3.6/in. Good

Cost: Lowest plus blower. (The only blowers that can be rented by homeowners)

Capacity to dry out if wet: Fair to poor

Fire Resistance: Good to Fair (Borax can leach out)

Fungus / Vermin Resistance: Fair

## Limitations:

- Will usually settle.
- Exposure to water can bleed out fire and bug additives.
- Absorbs water easily and can become heavy and caked.
- Very dusty to work with.
- Not accepted by CMHC for use below ground level.

## Advantages:

- Fills difficult enclosed spaces very well; the short fibers move with the air flow, find and plug air leaks.
- At proper densities it is a good air barrier.
- Because it blocks air leaks, it is a very good sound barrier.
- Normal water vapour passage will not affect the chemical additives.
- Requires smaller holes than other blown-in insulations.
- Only blown-in insulation that you can install yourself with rented equipment.

## Notes:

- Ensure that it does not plug eave vents at the time of installation and that it does not blow over the vents later with normal attic air currents.

## Applications:

- Attics and any enclosed cavity above ground level, such as walls, roofs and floors -- but for limitations search keyword "walls" for the title "CONFLICT: USE OR DON'T USE BLOWN-IN LOOSE FILL INSULATION INSIDE HOLLOW WALLS."

## Keywords:

Insulation, R-Value, Types