NATIONAL FIBER
CEL-PAK INSULATION

Professional Cellulose for Cellulose Professionals

Ten Things You Should Know About Sprayed Foam Insulations

1. Sprayed foam insulations are petroleum products, manufactured from petrochemicals, which means they have a large carbon footprint.

2. 'Soy based' (and other bio-based) foam sounds green, right? But 'soy based' foam isn't really soy based. Unfortunately, soy based foam only contains (up to) 17% soy content. The other 83% is petroleum based. So while soy foams contain small amounts of soy, they're still primarily oil and petrochemical based.

3. Sprayed foam insulations, once the code required fire barrier is breached, burn. Not only do they burn, they also produce huge volumes of toxic smoke.

4. Some low density sprayed foam insulations can outgas isocyanates as they cure, and isocyanates are not something you should breathe.

5. Sprayed Foam insulation doesn't protect the building assembly against moisture. Foam insulation is hydrophobic, i.e., it repels water, and while that sounds like a good thing, it isn't always. By redirecting moisture and water, foam can increase the likelihood of mold and rot or corrosion in the adjacent wood and metal building components. Cellulose disperses moisture and helps to protect the surrounding building components.

6. It takes a lot of energy to make foam insulation, up to 30,000 Btu's to make just one lb. of it. It only takes 750 Btu's to produce a pound of cellulose insulation.

7. Some foam insulations have a better R-Value than cellulose's R-3.8 per inch, but that isn't the whole story. Sprayed foam installers often don't fill an entire building cavity with foam, due to the cost and the large amount of waste and expense associated with trimming the foam flush with the framing. A partially filled building cavity doesn't perform as well and can increase thermal bridging. Cellulose fills the cavity fully, providing consistent R-value, excellent performance and outstanding comfort.

8. Low density foam insulation can create voids and large air bubbles as it expands and cures. Cellulose is dense packed without gaps and voids.

9. Foam insulations have zero recycled content. Cellulose has an 82%+ recycled content.

10. Foam doesn't deter mold and pests. Cellulose has borates, naturally occurring minerals, to deter mold and pests.

50 Depot Street • Belchertown, MA 01007 • 800-282-7711 • **www.nationalfiber.com**