Insulation keeps buildings comfortable and running efficiently. The performance of insulation depends not only on the insulation type and thickness, but also on the quality of the installation – poorly installed insulation can substantially reduce its effectiveness.

Efficiency Vermont uses the grading standards developed by RESNET, which assigns Grade I, II or III using two parameters: missing insulation and compression & incomplete fill. This guide highlights the differences between Grades I and II. Grade III is the lowest quality and is not covered here. To ensure that all homes are peak performers, Efficiency Vermont’s Residential New Construction program requires Grade I on all projects.

**Grade I example:** If a wall measures 8’x20’ (160 square feet), Grade I permits some small gaps (but no visible exterior sheathing) and up to 3.2 square feet of area where insulation is compressed by up to 30% (e.g. behind blocking or wiring).

See reverse for examples of installation in Vermont homes that are acceptable or problematic.

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Avoid

- Insulation compressed behind electrical box

- In addition to not having complete fill, the dense-pack fill is not dense enough which means it will settle even more over time

- Highly compressed insulation throughout cavity, and missing altogether in some areas

Accept

- No gaps, proper cutouts around electrical boxes

- Complete fill, no edge gaps, clean seam

- Well-detailed fiberglass, caulk/foam between narrow stud gaps

For more information, call 888-921-5990 or visit contractors.efficiencyvermont.com