RHODE ISLAND ENERGY CONSERVATION CODE



SUMMARY OF KEY RESIDENTIAL ENERGY CODE REQUIREMENTS

The 2024 IECC was adopted without amendments in Rhode Island and went into effect on **November 14, 2024**. This document summarizes changes to the building envelope-related requirements in the updated code for Rhode Island.

CODE CHANGE HIGHLIGHTS

- Wall stringency increased from R-20 to R-20+5ci.
- R406 ERI and R405 performance path are more stringent.
- Allowable air leakage decreased from 5ACH 50 to 3ACH 50.
- 10 Additional efficiency credits required per R408.



► BUILDING ENVELOPE AND DUCT REQUIREMENTS <</p>

PRESCRIPTIVE	CLIMATE ZONE 5		
Wood Frame Wall	R-30 or R-20+5ci or R-13+10ci or R-20ci / U-0.045		
Ceilings	R-49 / U-0.026		
Crawl Space Walls	R-19 or R-13+5 ci or R-15 ci / U-0.055		
Fenestration	U-0.028		
Floor	R-30 or R-19+7.5ci or R-20ci / U-0.033		
Mass Wall ^a	R-13 or R-17 / U-0.082		
Slab R-value and Depth	R-10, 3 ft.		
Basement Walls	R-19 or R-13+5 ci or R-15 ci / U-0.050		
Insulation Above Roof Deck	R-30ci / U-0.032		

DUCT LEAKAGE		DUCT R-VALUE	AIR LEAKAGE	
MEASUREMENT	CFM25 / 100 SQ. FT.	R-VALUE	CLIMATE ZONE	MEASUREMENT
Rough-in (installed air handler)	4			
Rough-in (air handler not installed)	3	R-8 ^b	5	3 ACH50
Post-construction	4			

a. The first R-value applies where >50% of the insulation is on the interior side.

MORE INFORMATION ON THE RHODE ISLAND ENERGY PROVISIONS CAN BE FOUND HERE:

https://codes.iccsafe.org/content/IECC2024V1.0



b. In attics. R-6 in other portions of the building. R-6 and R-4.2 respectively for ducts <3 inches.



ENERGY-EFFICIENT, COST-EFFECTIVE CONSTRUCTION WITH FIBERGLASS AND MINERAL WOOL INSULATION



As code levels advance, **keep informed about innovative practices** to meet or exceed code requirements using cost-effective fiberglass and mineral wool insulation.

The following resources in the table below are just a subset of the many guides available from the **Insulation Institute** to help you achieve new performance requirements with proven approaches.

INSULATION INSTITUTE RESOURCES

Priority Air Sealing Locations for New Homes

GRADE

Air Leakage

As states adopt more stringent energy codes, some builders may experience challenges meeting new mandatory air leakage requirements. Fiberglass and mineral wool insulation is the low-cost solution for homebuilders to meet or surpass code air leakage rate requirements of 3 or 5 air changes per hour depending on climate zone. For homeowners, an airtight building envelope results in energy savings and increased thermal comfort.

https://insulationinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/N090-5-Air-Sealing-Locations-for-New-Homes.pdf

Ducts Buried Within Ceiling Insulation Deeply buried ducts in attics is an easy way to lower energy code compliance costs for builders using the simulated energy performance path. Homeowners can benefit from energy savings realized from lower-capacity, lower-cost HVAC systems.

https://insulationinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/N087-Buried-Ducts-Thenewest-way-to-uncover-savings.pdf

Proper Installation of Insulation

Grade I installation delivers superior energy efficiency and is increasingly required by state energy codes. Insulation installation jobs that fail to meet Grade I criteria can mean construction delays due to callbacks, HERS rating penalties, and failed code inspections. Grade I installation is readily achievable by following basic guidelines as recommended by manufacturers. NAIMA offers free online training for installers.

www.grade1insulation.org

Unvented Attics Using Fiberglass and Mineral Wool Insulation Unvented attics can be constructed by installing fiberglass or mineral wool insulation below the roof deck instead of using more costly materials like spray foam. In addition, fiberglass and mineral wool insulation products are green certified and do not carry recommended occupancy restrictions due to product off-gassing after installation. Starting with the 2018 IRC, this practice is outlined in detail within the code. Homeowners benefit from lower construction costs and the use of a safe product.

https://insulationinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/BuildingUnventedAtticAssemblies-N089.pdf

LEARN MORE TO SEE HOW THE ENERGY CODE SAVES YOU MONEY:

https://insulationinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/ Modern-Energy-Codes-Save-Money-Infographic.pdf

Get the Facts for a Stronger Business

Learn more about fiberglass and mineral wool insulation at InsulationInstitute.org

