



# JP10 Thermal Insulation

**Thermal Insulation Master class**

**BrianSpecMan 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

# This Presentation on GBE:

- **Find this file on GBE websites at:**
  - <https://GreenBuildingEncyclopaedia.uk/?p=40839>
- **Go there for:**
  - the latest update
  - versions presented to different audiences
  - the whole presentation, all of the hidden slides
  - other file formats:
    - Handout, Show, PDF, (PPTX in shop)
  - **Links to related: GBE & GBC CPD & other content**
    - CPD, Lectures, Checklists, Jargon Busters, Issue papers, Q&A, Links, etc.

# Thermal Insulation Functions

In use Carbon and Energy Reduction

Thermal comfort Moisture management

# General Competency Issues

- **Comply with Code of Practice or Workmanship British Standards or WOBS**
- **Products manufactured to BS standards and BSI Kitemarked ideally (or ENs and Kitemark)**
- **BBA Certified systems if no Kitemark**
- **Manufacturer recommendations should never be ignored**
- **BBA certificates should be checked for limitations too, stay within them**
- **Check currency of test evidence**
  - (ideally post Grenfell)

# Regulated Issues

- **Stuff we should understand**
- **k values of materials and products**
- **r values of materials of known thickness**
- **Surface resistivity at faces and in voids**
- **U values of whole elements**
- **R values if European/International**
- **Do you do your own calculations?**
  - If not, do you check them for competency?
  - I have found manufacturers fudging values
- **GBC V2 Includes U value calculators for all elements**
- **GRC V1 will too when issued**

# Unregulated Issues

- **Stuff green manufacturers understand**
  - but we tend not to know nor exploit
  - More research is done but not readily accessible
- **Hydrophobic insulation**
  - Vapour closed construction
- **Hygroscopic insulation**
  - Vapour open construction
  - Breathing walls & roofs

# Unregulated Issues (BRAD O)

- BRAD O does not understand opaque building envelop permits solar radiant heat inwards
- Solar Radiation Heat gain
- K value
- Density
- Specific Heat Capacity
  - Thermal Mass
    - storing heat in its thermal mass, if it has any
  - Decrement delay or Thermal lag
    - heat passage over time through insulation to interior

# Meeting Targets: means Avoiding Substitutions

- Specify the reasons you chose it
- Make those reasons the criteria for substitution equivalency
- Don't say 'or similar' say 'or equivalent' and check equivalency
  - In annotation (don't undermine the specification)
  - Nor in the specification it encourages substitution
- Police your specification
  - Choosing Contractors, Suppliers, Installers
  - At price gathering and at tender stage
  - On site: Delivery tickets, packaging, products
  - As installed
  - At stage payments "Here be dragons"
  - (signing off stage payments approves surreptitious substitution)



# Violet v Green Contractors

- Violet contractors know what they know
- Have supply chains in order
- Buy the day they need it from merchants
- They don't like change: Business as usual
- Get them to do the TGR's Futureproof online training courses for sustainable retrofit subcontractors
- <https://www.futureproof.uk.net/>
- [futureproof@cse.org.uk](mailto:futureproof@cse.org.uk)
- So they know why and how to change and want to change
- And not bother to bring spurious substitutions
- And get satisfaction they are part of the solution

# Cost savings now, cost later

- Working with your client and the contractor
- Understand that initial cost savings will **probably increase** :
  - in-use cost
  - in use Energy and Carbon
  - Embodied Energy and Carbon
- Use Green Building Calculator to see all of the costs and impacts before you decide
- Making changes in GBC will instantaneously provide you with the consequences of any change of specification or targets



# Pay back & carbon back periods

- **Renewable energy systems are an add on cost**
- **Push-back comes in the form of 'what is the pay-back period' usually associated with energy costs**
- **More importantly are carbon-back periods**
- **If your client is switched on to carbon saving**
- **Provide them with that information too**
- **Green Building Calculator aims to provide this data in future**
  - Focus on Insulation payback periods
  - Focus on high specification window payback periods
  - Focus on the cost of adding and running air conditioning
  - Focus on PV to EV on the drive not having to pay for fuel again
- **Challenge payback period of £1000 tap or door handle**

# Adding real value

- Estate agent's perceived 'adding value': if your selling it
  - Location Location Location in relation to schools
  - Increasing floor area,
  - Posh kitchens and posh bathrooms
  - Kerb appeal
  - Neutral colour, clutter-free interiors
- Home owners perceived adding value:
  - Being able to boast about how cheaply you extended/altered your house is not adding value
  - With increasing fuel and living costs, long term low running costs need to be perceived as adding value?
  - A to G ratings enable engagement
  - Boasting your 6 Bed house costs £50/year to heat and cool not £2000/year at the school gate has to be seen as adding value?



<https://GreenBuildingCalculator.uk>



<https://GreenBuildingEncyclopaedia.uk>



<https://GreenBuildingCalculator.uk>

# History Lesson

Just my opinion

GBC will confirm or not

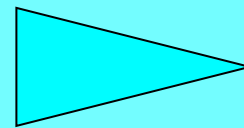
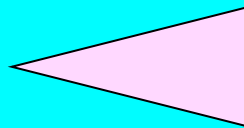
# Pre 1919 - 1962 Building Regs

Energy loss through

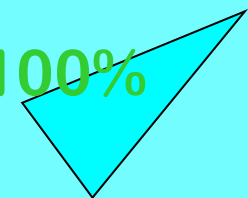
Hot air up chimney

Energy loss through cold air infiltration  
Energy loss through hot air ex-filtration

100%



100%



Outside

Wall & Airbrick

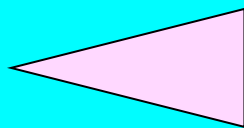
Inside

Thermal mass absorbs radiant heat from sun and fireplace

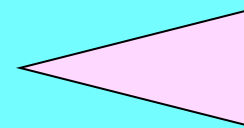
Radiant heat that warms objects and people

Energy loss through cold bridges

0%



100%



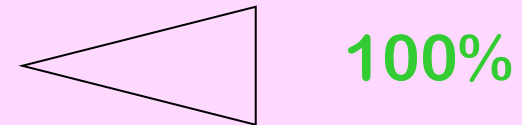
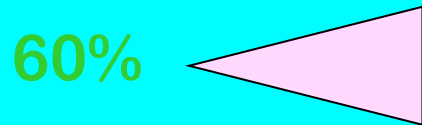
Energy loss through building fabric

Performance Gap between designed and actual demands

Insulated Roof

# 1995 Building Regs. AD L

Energy Loss Through Air leakage



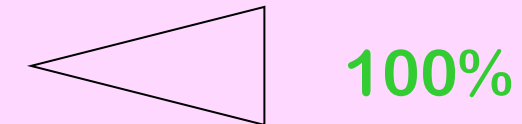
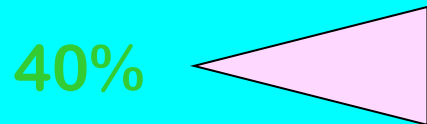
Energy Loss Through Thermal Bridges

Outside

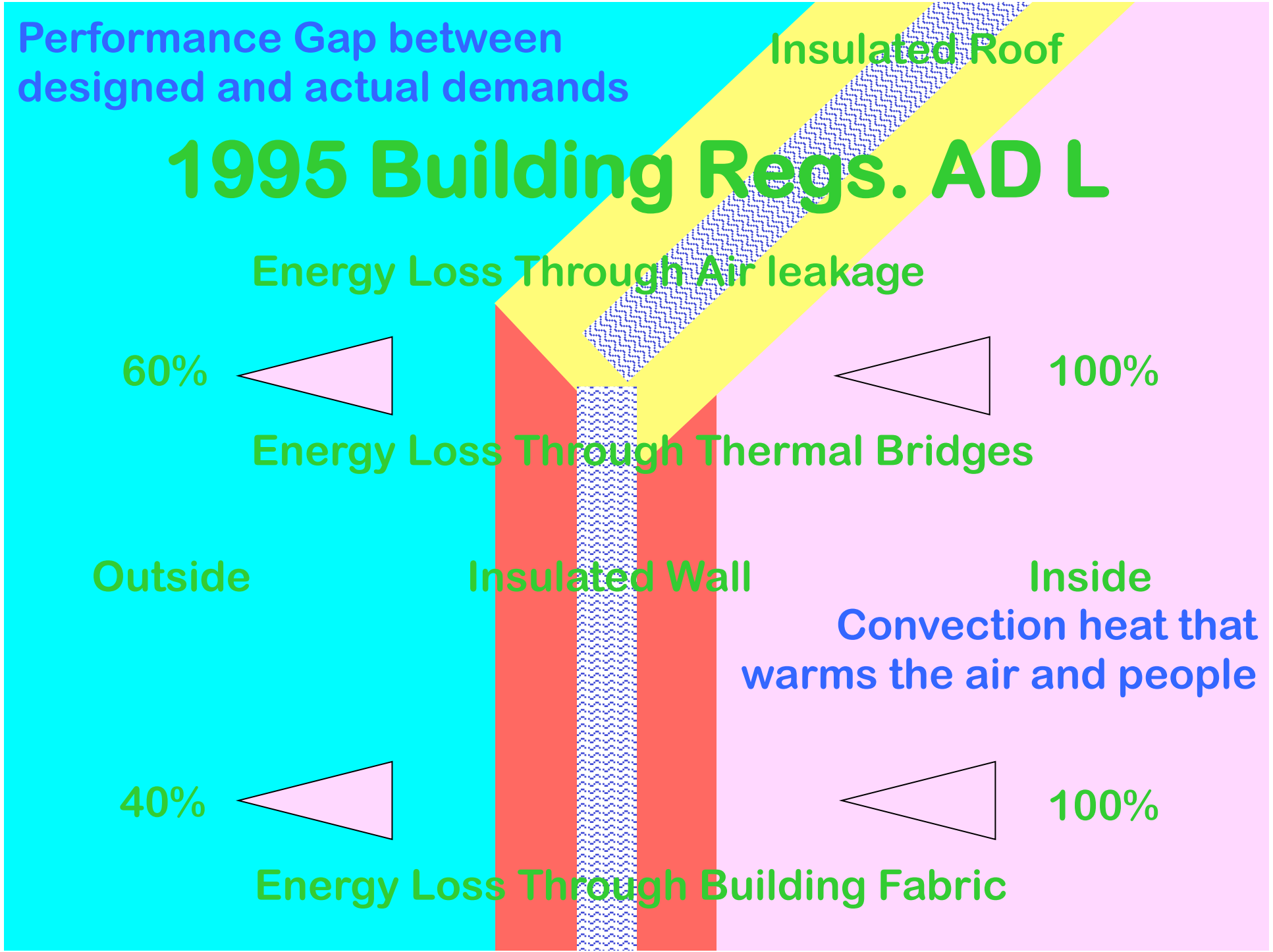
Insulated Wall

Inside

Convection heat that warms the air and people



Energy Loss Through Building Fabric





Wrong choice of insulation materials: Well insulated roof  
solar radiant heat gain: overheating

# 2016 Building Regs. AD L

Energy Loss Through Air leakage

100%  No care and attention at junctions  
10 or worse airtightness  100%

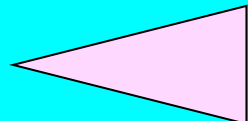
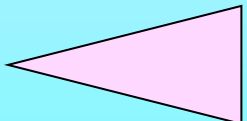
Energy Loss Through Cold Bridges

Outside

Well insulated wall

Inside

Convection heat that warms  
the air and people

0%   100%

Energy Loss Through Building Fabric

Care and attention at junctions  
0.6 or better airtightness

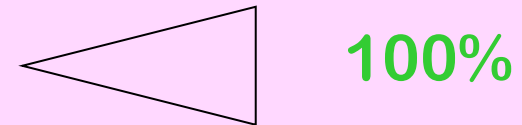
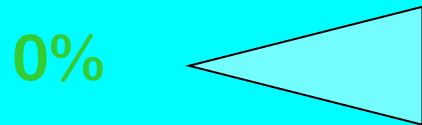
Well insulated roof

# 2023 Passivhaus & Biobased

Controlled Solar heat gains  
add heat energy via windows

White goods and other  
equipment add heat energy

Low Energy Loss Through Air leakage



Low Energy Loss Through Cold Bridges

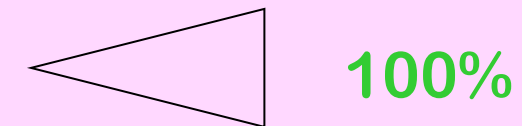
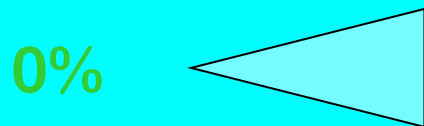
Humans and pets add  
100 watts heat energy

Outside

Well insulated wall

Inside

Mechanical Ventilation with 90% heat  
recovery and summer bypass



Low Energy Loss Through Building Fabric

# CO<sub>2</sub> and Energy demand targets

- **Set out to meet or exceed:**
  - Kyoto, Paris, EU or UK CO<sub>2</sub> targets,
  - or ACAN, LETI, RIBA campaigns (but silos still apply)
- **Do not limit projects to complying with Building Regulations Approved Documents L1A, L1B, L2A, L2B they are not yet aiming to meet any targets**
  - Weak Regulations since 1965 could be blamed for Climate Change
  - but coal, oil and gas are the real culprits
- **EcoHomes & Code for Sustainable Homes**
  - Challenged Building Regulations
  - CfSH strived for Zero Carbon buildings by 2016,
  - Industry responded and invested for one up man ship
    - Lots of bad application and lessons learned
  - but were optional,
  - challenged by profit hungry developers and now no longer available
  - Some T&CP still ask for them

# Reduce Your Targets

- Reduce heating, cooling, ventilation and air-conditioning demands towards zero
- Insulation costs less than heating and cooling plant so insulate
- Windows: U value of 1.0 W/m<sup>2</sup>.K or better targets 0.75 W/m<sup>2</sup>.K
- Walls: U value of 0.1 W/m<sup>2</sup>.K or better
- Airtightness: Building Regulations Approved Document L less than 1, (0.6 PH) not 10 required by BRADL
- An existing unusable library survey
  - Howling wind through windows
  - Papers fluttering across table
  - Airtightness tested at 8
  - Then reduced to 2 in an hour with smoke wands and tapes



<https://GreenBuildingCalculator.uk>



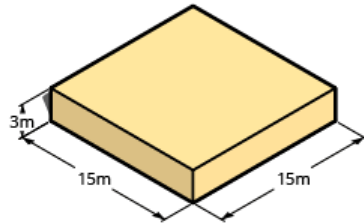
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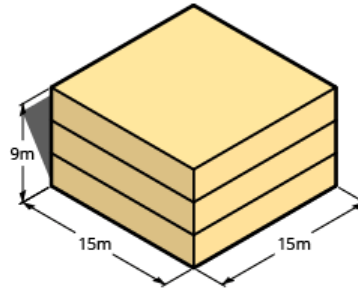
<https://GreenBuildingCalculator.uk>

# Form Factor

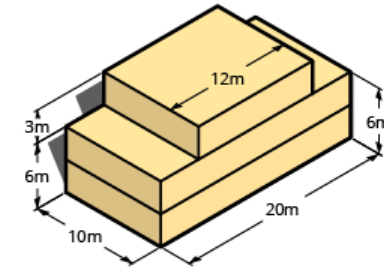
# Heat Loss Form Factor and Surface to Volume Examples



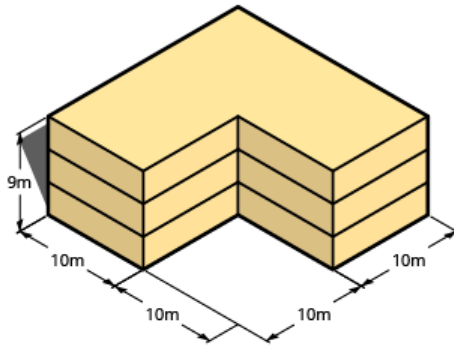
Heated Floor Area ( $A_{hf}$ )\*: 168.75 m<sup>2</sup>  
 Envelope Area ( $A_e$ ): 630 m<sup>2</sup>  
 Volume (V): 675 m<sup>3</sup>  
**Heat Loss Form Factor ( $A_e/A_{hf}$ ): 3.73**  
**Surface to Volume Ratio ( $A_e/V$ ): 0.93 1/m**



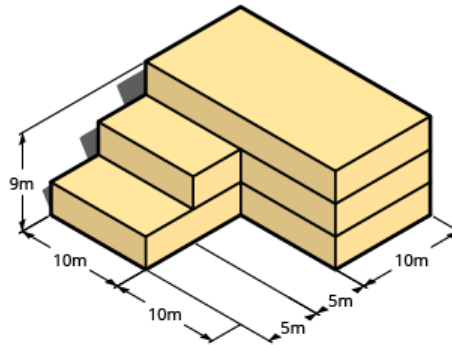
Heated Floor Area ( $A_{hf}$ )\*: 506.25 m<sup>2</sup>  
 Envelope Area ( $A_e$ ): 990 m<sup>2</sup>  
 Volume (V): 2,025 m<sup>3</sup>  
**Heat Loss Form Factor ( $A_e/A_{hf}$ ): 1.96**  
**Surface to Volume Ratio ( $A_e/V$ ): 0.49 1/m**



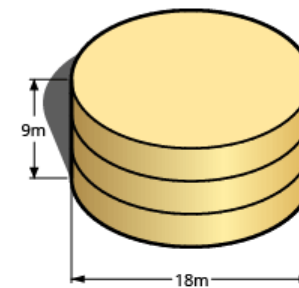
Heated Floor Area ( $A_{hf}$ )\*: 390 m<sup>2</sup>  
 Envelope Area ( $A_e$ ): 892 m<sup>2</sup>  
 Volume (V): 1,560 m<sup>3</sup>  
**Heat Loss Form Factor ( $A_e/A_{hf}$ ): 2.29**  
**Surface to Volume Ratio ( $A_e/V$ ): 0.57 1/m**



Heated Floor Area ( $A_{hf}$ )\*: 675 m<sup>2</sup>  
 Envelope Area ( $A_e$ ): 1,320 m<sup>2</sup>  
 Volume (V): 2,700 m<sup>3</sup>  
**Heat Loss Form Factor ( $A_e/A_{hf}$ ): 1.96**  
**Surface to Volume Ratio ( $A_e/V$ ): 0.49 1/m**



Heated Floor Area ( $A_{hf}$ )\*: 562.5 m<sup>2</sup>  
 Envelope Area ( $A_e$ ): 1,230 m<sup>2</sup>  
 Volume (V): 2,250 m<sup>3</sup>  
**Heat Loss Form Factor ( $A_e/A_{hf}$ ): 2.19**  
**Surface to Volume Ratio ( $A_e/V$ ): 0.55 1/m**



Heated Floor Area ( $A_{hf}$ )\*: 562.5 m<sup>2</sup>  
 Envelope Area ( $A_e$ ): 1,004.65 m<sup>2</sup>  
 Volume (V): 2,250 m<sup>3</sup>  
**Heat Loss Form Factor ( $A_e/A_{hf}$ ): 1.79**  
**Surface to Volume Ratio ( $A_e/V$ ): 0.45 1/m**

\* $A_{hf}$  = 75% Gross Floor Area

# Form Factor dictates heat loss

- Ratio between external envelop and floor areas
- Spherical is optimum but impractical and costly
- Compact square plans, cubical volumes best
- L, C, O, I, H, T, X shaped plans worse
- Bungalows worse than Apartments
- Villas worse than Terraces
- Bay, Oriel, Dormer, Porch, Extensions, Conservatory, recessed covered walkways: all worse Form Factor
- Towers with multiple occupancy: okay
- Towers with single occupancy: not so good
- Form Factor included in GBC V2

Yes	Yes	Auto-filled	Multiple	Multiple	Multiple	Multiple	Multiple	Multiple	Auto-filled	Auto-filled	Auto-filled	To be completed by GBC user		
<b>User name:</b>		BrianSpecMan did this										Auto-filled		
<b>Project name:</b>		Over type with Project name										Auto-filled		
<b>Project address:</b>		Over type with Project address										Auto-filled		
<b>Building Facility Fuction/Use:</b>		Over type with Building User Activity or Purpose										Auto-filled		
<b>Project Brief Employer Requirements or Architect's Proposal</b>														
<b>Form Factor</b>														
		No.	No.	m	m	m2	m	m3						
<b>Building(s)</b>	<b>Room Functions</b>	Number of buildings	Number of floors	Length(s)	Width(s)	Floor Area Ceiling Area Roof Area	Room heights	Volumes						
© GBE Green Building Calculator 2011-2021														
Whole Building	All rooms	1	4	10	6	240	2.5	600	m3	Volume		Auto-filled		
<b>Terrace(s)</b>	<b>One or many</b>	Number of terraces	Number of units in terrace	Depth front to back in terrace	Party wall to party wall	Position of single unit in terrace	Number of party walls	Number of end walls						
© GBE Green Building Calculator 2011-2021														
		3	51	10	6	N/A, End or Mid	1	1	No.			Auto-filled		
		Number of buildings	Number of floors	Length(s)	Width(s)	Floor Area Ceiling Area Roof Area	Room heights							
External wall		1	4	80	48	1280	2.5							
Ground floor footprint		1		10	6	60								
Ground or upper Floor suspended over external air		1	1	10	6	60								
		Number of buildings	Number of roofs	Length(s)	Width(s)	Roof Area	Roof height	Roof Volume						
Yes	Roof area, Roof shape and Attic volume	22 Flat Roof (FR)	1	1	10	6	60	0.25	0	m3		Multiple		
Yes		23 Shallow Roof (SR)	1	1	10	6	60	0.5	15	m3		Multiple		
Yes		24 Pitched Roof (PR)	1	1	10	6	60	3	90	m3		Multiple		
Yes		25 Barrel Vault Roof (BVR)	1	1	10	6	60	3	283	m3		Multiple		
Yes		26 Domed Roof (DR)	1	1	10	6	60	3	113	m3		Multiple		
Yes		27 Hipped/Pyramid Roof (HPR)	1	1	10	6	60	3	45	m3		Multiple		
Yes		28 Mono-Pitched Roof (MPR)	1	1	10	6	60	3	90	m3		Multiple		
Yes		29 Mansard Roof (MR)	1	1	10	6	60	0.25	14	m3		Multiple		
Yes		33 Other Geometry Roof (OGR)	1	1	10	6	60	3	121	m3		Multiple		
		No.	Number of floors	Depth	Width	Floor/Roof Area	Height	Volume						
Terraced House Rear Extension		1	1	5	3.5	17.5	2.5	43.75	m3	Heat Loss Surface Area	51	m2	Multiple	
Weather Porch		1	1	2	2	4	3	12	m3	25	m2	Multiple		
Conservatory/Sun Space		1	1	3	5.5	16.5	5	82.5	m3	73.5	m2	Multiple		
Bay window		1	1	1	3	3	2.5	7.5	m3	16.5	m2	Multiple		
Oriel Window (upper floor bay window)		1	1	1	3	3	2.5	7.5	m3	16.5	m2	Multiple		
2B-3D Dormer roof/window		1	1	4	5.5	22	2	44	m3	37.5	m2	Multiple		
Heat Loss Surface Area		SA	1			1766			m2	797.25	m3	220	m2	Auto-filled
Treated Floor Area		TFA	1	4	10	6	240		m2					Auto-filled
Form Factor (FF) range		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
Form Factor (FF) = SA/TFA							8.28	Used by Zero Carbon Hub's Designer's Manual					Auto-filled	
Typology/Shape ology							FF	Target U values	Y/N	Unit				
Target Form Factor FF		Apartment Block or uniform terrace					<2	0.2 to 0.15	N	W/m2.K	4		Auto-filled	
		Semi-detached or compact detached houses					2 to 3	0.15 to 0.12	N	W/m2.K	3		Auto-filled	
		Less compact detached houses or compact detached bungalows					3 to 4	0.12 to 0.10	N	W/m2.K	2		Auto-filled	
		Complex shaped detached bungalows					>4	<0.1	Y	W/m2.k	1		Auto-filled	
Passivhaus Heat Loss Factor (HLF)		0.7	1.1	1.5	2	2.4	2.8	3	3.3	3.7	4	4.5	No.	
0.038	Stone wool insulation (mm)	70	110	150	200	240	280	300	330	370	400	450	mm	
K value	Equals U values of:	0.54	0.35	0.25	0.19	0.16	0.14	0.13	0.12	0.10	0.10	0.08	U	
0.04	Lightweight Expanded Sewage Aggregate	116	158	211	253	295	316	347	347	389	421	474	mm	
Rule of thumb: Halve the heat loss area, halve the insulation thickness														
Surface to Volume Ratio		0.6	1	1.5	2	2.5	3.5	5				Hide		
Surface to Volume Ratio		SA/V	This row feels unreliable at the moment, needs more research				2.49	Used by AECB, CarbonLite and PassivhausUK columns in worksheet 'U values Etc'.				Hide		
Project Size: If areas vary between floors and/or if rooms need different temperatures go to 'ScheduleAccommodation: Floors and Rooms'														
Review														



# Form Factor suggests Targets

- With a Form Factor Calculator
- You can determine U value Targets
- That are more important than BRADL
- A large form factor will always use more energy to heat or cool
- So U value should be correspondingly more onerous
- or it will be expensive to occupy



# Changes of Direction/Plain

- **Junctions between elements**
- **Corners between walls**
- **Angles between planes**
- **Are all costly:**
  - Are all more labour intensive
  - All generate offcut waste
    - (in factory, on site or both)
  - Are often thermal bridges that loose heat
  - Are often air leaky where heat is also lost



<https://GreenBuildingCalculator.uk>



<https://GreenBuildingEncyclopaedia.uk>



<https://GreenBuildingCalculator.uk>

# Orientation

# Orientation of what?

- **Building orientation: can influence building performance**
  - Plan shape and orientation
    - Area of external opaque surfaces facing sun,
    - Pitched roofs in particular (potential overheating),
  - Volumetric shape (form factor)
- **Windows, Glazing: solar heat gain**
  - South: needs shading in summer, solar access in winter
  - East & West: Morning and evening heat gains at low angles
  - North: heat free daylight, but heat loss too
- **Roofs: facing the sun at different times of day**
  - For Renewable energy systems
  - Use PV on more roof orientations to match energy supply to energy demand over longer period of day,
  - Do not maximise battery capacity for mid day only gains
  - Not just south facing and not just at 30 degree pitch
  - Vertical in winter (Bill Dunster at FutureBuild 2023)
  - Potential to overheat attic and top floors



# Really want this?

OUR BIGGEST EVER PRIZE



- **Form Factor: So high**
- **South facing?: No shading**
- **6 bathrooms: Who's cleaning them?**
- **£100,000: to pay for:**
  - summer air conditioning
  - winter heating bills
  - House maid

Worth £4,500,000   Direct Water Access   6 Bedrooms   6 Bathrooms

You Could Win This  
**WATERFRONT HOUSE IN CORNWALL**  
With £100,000 To Settle In

House closes 01/05/23. Over 18s + UK residents only. No purchase necessary.

# Orientation

- **Solar heat gains can be beneficial in winter if exploited well**
- **Solar heat gains can be detrimental in summer due to overheating**
- **Opaque building fabric needs thermal mass OR**
- **Insulation material choice will exacerbate or solve overheating**

# Internal Heat Transfer

Keep heat in its place of arrival

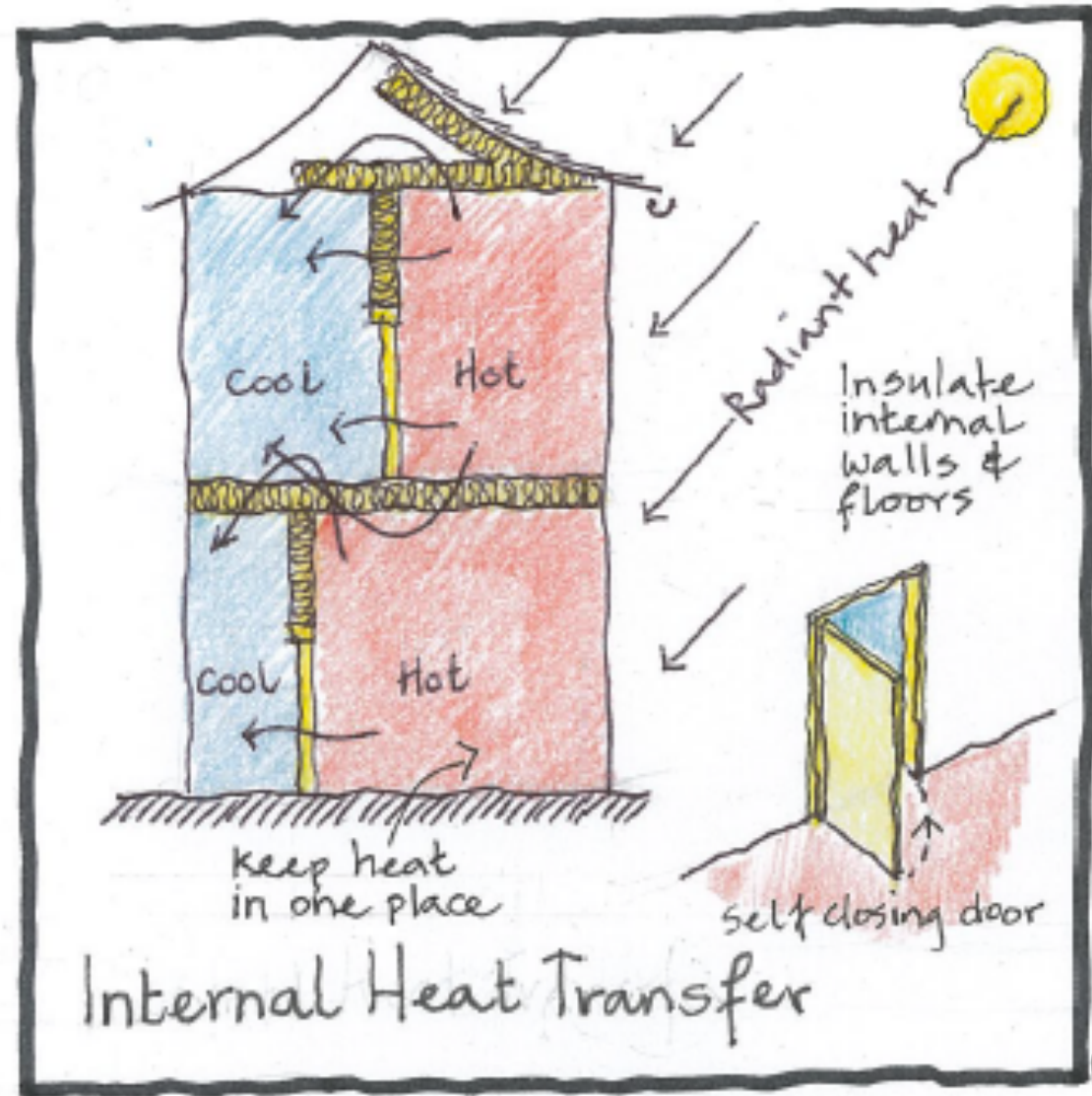
Maintain safe refuge on the cooler side

Insulate internal floors and partitions

Self closing doors

Promoted by BedZED

Rotate around rooms of the house to stay cool





# Thermal Bridges

## Geometry dictates & Material choices

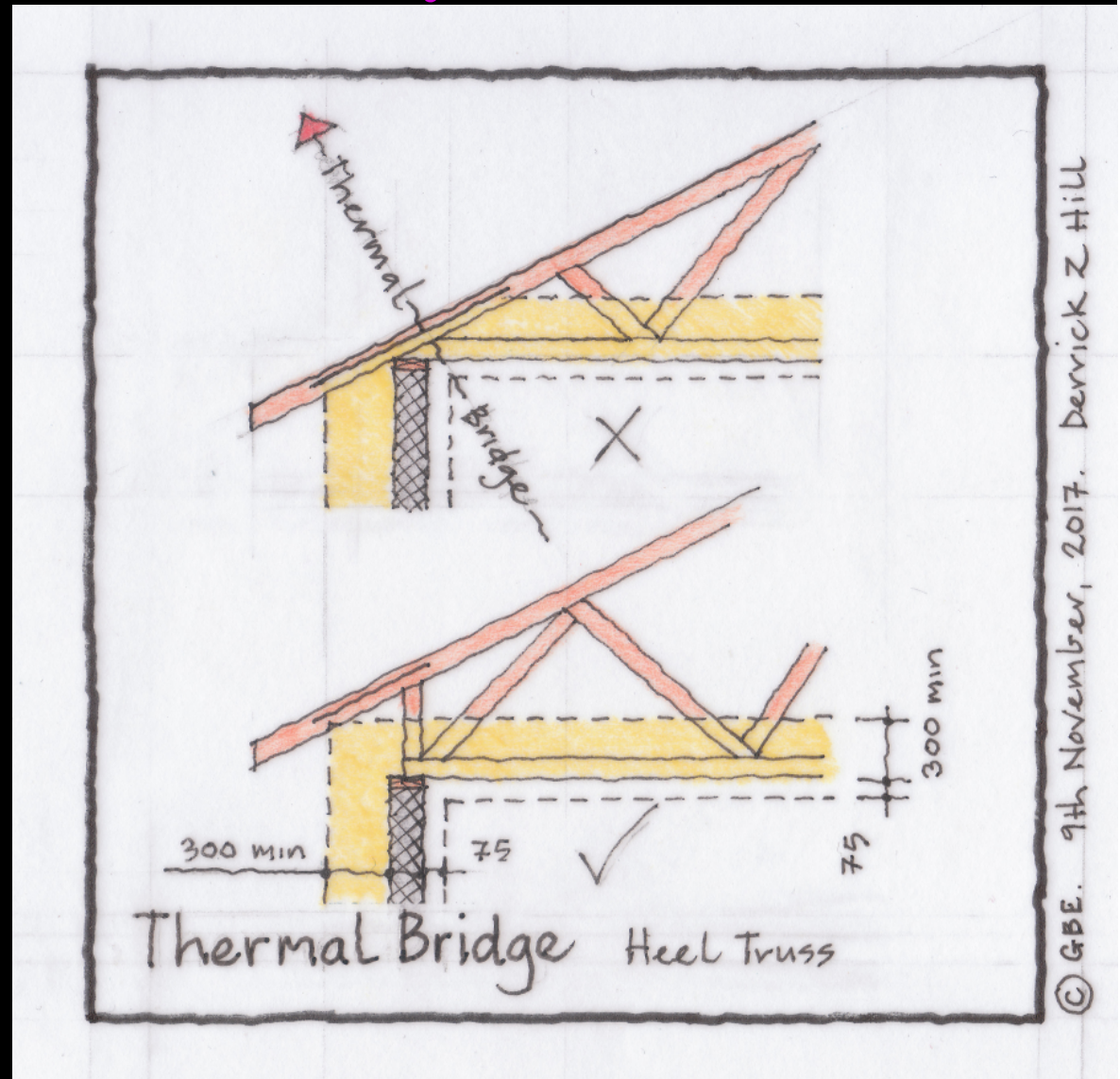
# Thermal bridges will ruin any choice of insulation material performance

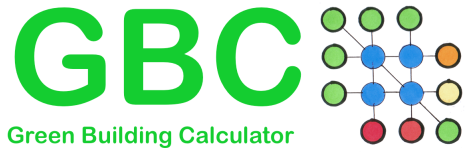
Thermal bridges will let conducted heat out, conducted coolth in and solar radiant heat in

Eaves details are most vulnerable

300 mm of insulation reduced to 50 mm is asking for trouble

Risking interstitial condensation, surface condensation, mould, structural failure, asthma, toxic mould and death





<https://GreenBuildingCalculator.uk>



<https://GreenBuildingEncyclopaedia.uk>



<https://GreenBuildingCalculator.uk>

# Thermal Breaks



Green Building Calculator

<https://GreenBuildingCalculator.uk>



<https://GreenBuildingEncyclopaedia.uk>



Green Retrofit Calculator

<https://GreenBuildingCalculator.uk>



# High Density Expanded Polystyrene

- Strong enough for nails and screws
- For securing windows, doors, etc.
- Embedded in walls
- Moisture tolerant
- Thermal insulation but poorer k value



<https://GreenBuildingCalculator.uk>



<https://GreenBuildingEncyclopaedia.uk>



<https://GreenBuildingCalculator.uk>

# Thermal Bypass & Wind Washing

- Wind washing at eaves
- Essential eaves ventilation to prevent condensation
- Cold air from eaves ventilation can blow the warmth out of the ceiling insulation
- Install a wind baffle to maintain ventilation route past the insulation edge





<https://GreenBuildingCalculator.uk>



<https://GreenBuildingEncyclopaedia.uk>



<https://GreenBuildingCalculator.uk>

# Thickness

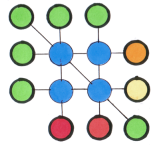
Carbon and Energy  
Reduction



# GBC

Green Building Calculator

<https://GreenBuildingCalculator.uk>



# GBE

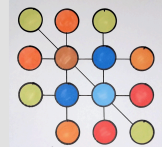
<https://GreenBuildingEncyclopaedia.uk>



# GRC

Green Retrofit Calculator

<https://GreenBuildingCalculator.uk>



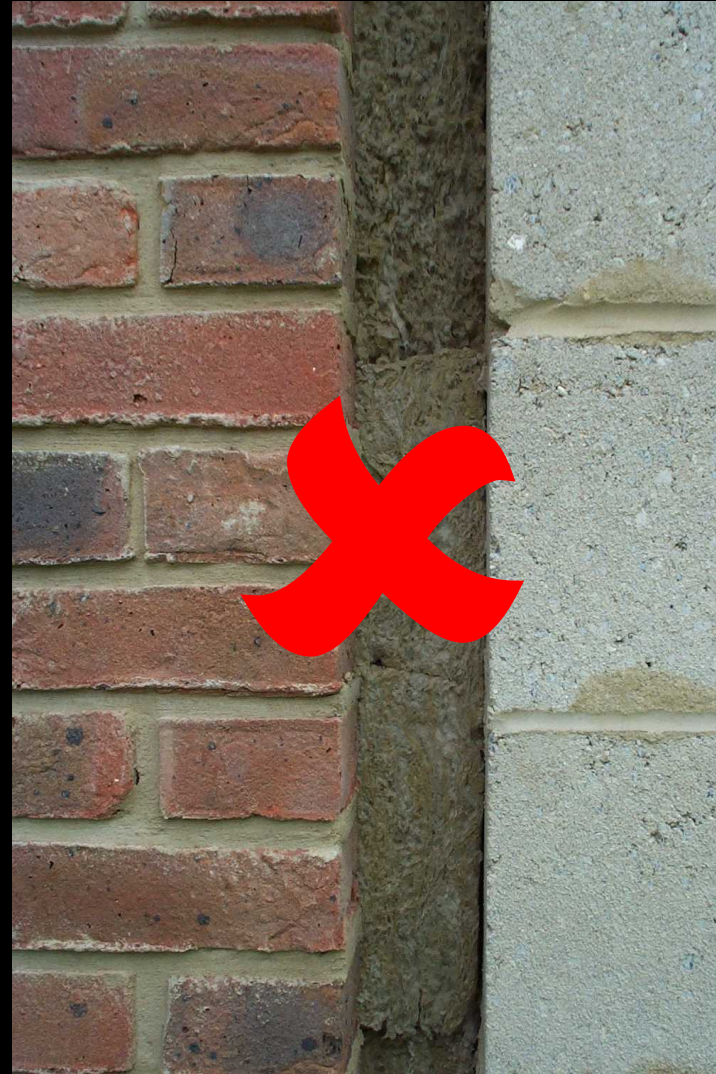
## Insulation thicknesses required to achieve a U-value of 0.2W/m<sup>2</sup>k

<b>235mm</b>	Cellulose fibre
<b>220mm</b>	Glass wool fibre
<b>210mm</b>	Rock wool fibre
<b>190mm</b>	Extruded polystyrene foam
<b>185mm</b>	Polyurethane foam with CO <sub>2</sub>
<b>180mm</b>	Expanded polystyrene
<b>150mm</b>	Polyurethane foam with pentane
<b>135mm</b>	Phenolic foam
<b>130mm</b>	Polyisocyanurate foam
<b>120mm</b>	Phenolic foam with foil face
<b>95mm</b>	Polyisocyanurate foam with foil face
<b>75mm</b>	Aerogel blanket
<b>25mm</b>	Vacuum insulation

**50 mm. cavity  
is history**

**300 – 600 mm.  
is optimum**

**Ties and  
tie spacing  
may change**



**BedZED Beddington Sutton Architect: Bill Dunster**

# Zero Fossil Fuel Energy Development

High thermal mass  
cavity walls, roofs  
and floors

Low U values  
300 mm.

Rock Mineral Fibre  
Long 2 part cavity ties



BedZED Beddington Sutton Architect: Bill Dunster

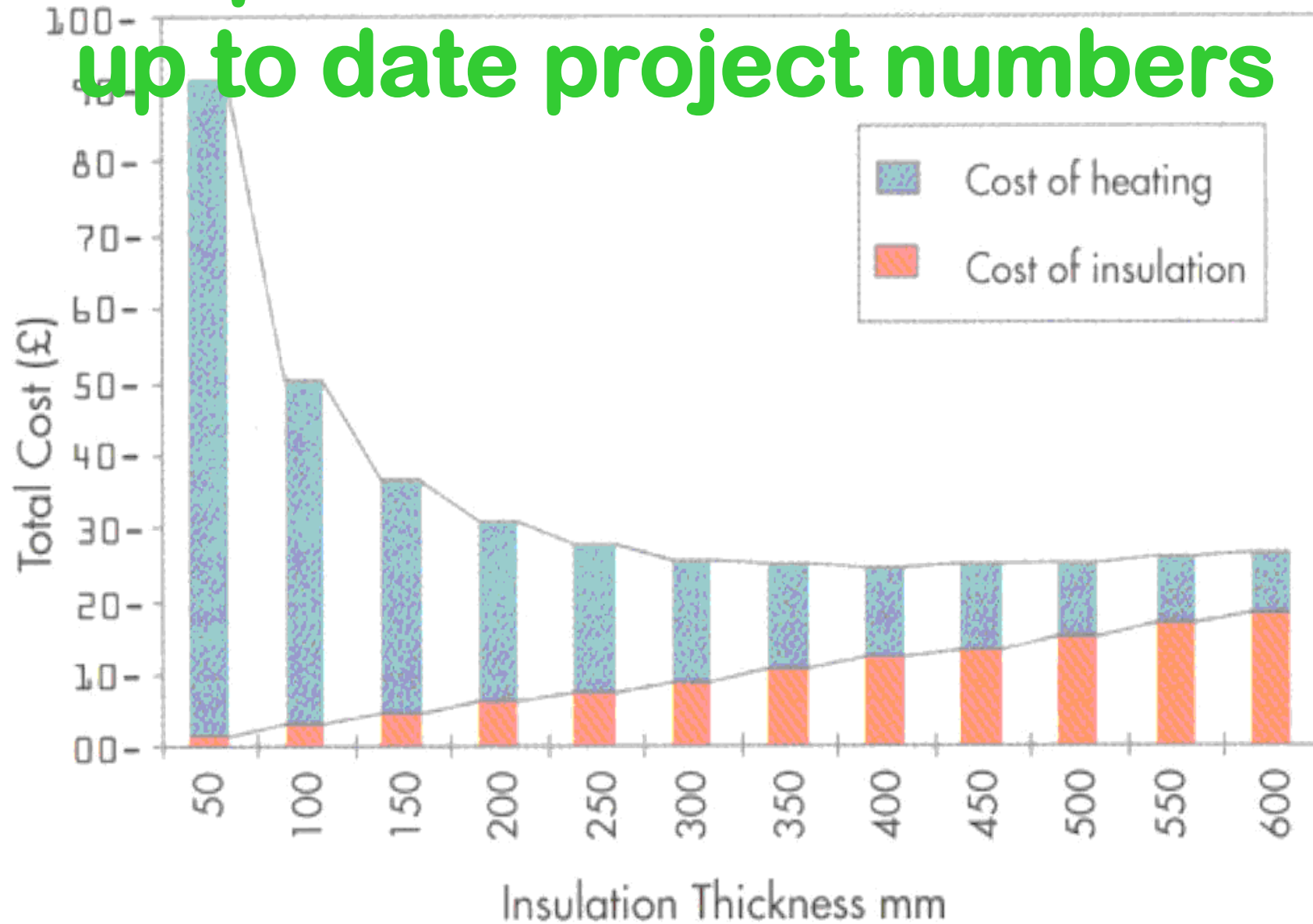


**Long ties and deep reveals  
For 300 mm. insulation**

# Insulation, Insulation, Insulation

- Spend money on insulation, its cheap
- Save money on heating and cooling plant, it's expensive, reduce plant room sizes
- Save money on heating and cooling bills
- it will get more expensive over time
- Peak oil has been passed
- Prices have been rising
- Government will not intervene

# Principle still true could do with up to date project numbers





Mainly mineral based

Mainly Fossil Oil-based

# Materials > Formats > k values > U values > Thicknesses > 150 options in GBC V1

CGC	Mainly mineral based													Fibre			Foam								
	LECA	LESA	CS	EHC	AAC	HDCB	AC	LAC	AA	EP	EP	EV	V	PF	PP	SFP	OF	EP	REF	EPSCB	XPS	XPSH	XPSC	PUR	PIR
0.100			0.059	0.390	0.110	0.550	0.160	0.230	0.013	0.050	0.053		0.006		0.500	0.040		0.044	0.040	0.060	0.040	0.032	0.040	0.040	0.035
0.100			0.059	0.270	0.110	0.550	0.160	0.120	0.013	0.050	0.053		0.006		0.500	0.040		0.032	0.032	0.060	0.027	0.032	0.040	0.022	0.025
0.100	0.000	0.000	0.059	0.330	0.110	0.550	0.160	0.175	0.013	0.050	0.053	0.000	0.006	0.000	0.500	0.040	0.000	0.038	0.036	0.060	0.034	0.032	0.040	0.031	0.030
	mm	mm	mm	mm	mm	mm	mm	mm	mm	mm	mm	mm	mm	mm	mm	mm	mm	mm	mm	mm	mm	mm	mm	mm	mm
667			393	2200	733	3667	1067	1167	87	333	353		40		3333	267		253	240	400	223	213	267	207	200
667			393	2200	733	3667	1067	1167	87	333	353		40		3333	267		253	240	400	223	213	267	207	200
667			393	2200	733	3667	1067	1167	87	333	353		40		3333	267		253	240	400	223	213	267	207	200
667			393	2200	733	3667	1067	1167	87	333	353		40		3333	267		253	240	400	223	213	267	207	200
667			393	2200	733	3667	1067	1167	87	333	353		40		3333	267		253	240	400	223	213	267	207	200
667			393	2200	733	3667	1067	1167	87	333	353		40		3333	267		253	240	400	223	213	267	207	200
667			393	2200	733	3667	1067	1167	87	333	353		40		3333	267		253	240	400	223	213	267	207	200
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667			393	2200	733	3667	1067	1167	87	333	353		40		3333	267		253	240	400	223	213	267	207	200
667			393	2200	733	3667	1067	1167	87	333	353		40		3333	267		253	240	400	223	213	267	207	200
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667			393	2200	733	3667	1067	1167	87	333	353		40		3333	267		253	240	400	223	213	267	207	200
105			62	347	116	579	168	184	14	53	56		6		526	42		40	38	63	35	34	42	33	32
105			62	347	116	579	168	184	14	53	56		6		526	42		40	38	63	35	34	42	33	32
133			79	440	147	733	213	233	17	67	71		8		667	53		51	48	80	45	43	53	41	40
133			79	440	147	733	213	233	17	67	71		8		667	53		51	48	80	45	43	53	41	40
133			79	440	147	733	213	233	17	67	71		8		667	53		51	48	80	45	43	53	41	40
105			62	347	116	579	168	184	14	53	56		6		526	42		40	38	63	35	34	42	33	32
105			62	347	116	579	168	184	14	53	56		6		526	42		40	38	63	35	34	42	33	32
133			79	440	147	733	213	233	17	67	71		8		667	53		51	48	80	45	43	53	41	40
105			62	347	116	579	168	184	14	53	56		6		526	42		40	38	63	35	34	42	33	32
105			62	347	116	579	168	184	14	53	56		6		526	42		40	38	63	35	34	42	33	32



# Thick walls, roofs and floors



We have a preoccupation with thin walls 300 mm. or less

Which drives the demand for energy intensive man-made petrochemical fossil derived CFC HCFC HFC HFA foamed plastic

O<sub>3</sub> Ozone Depletion

Greenhouse Gas Potential

300-400 mm. optimum

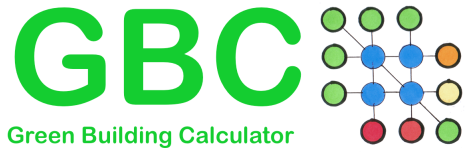
insulation thickness (details)

Avoid problems

# Construction Resources

## Showroom Tour 1:1 Section models

Thermal & Acoustic Insulation  
Different eras and climate zones  
Another CPD seminar



<https://GreenBuildingCalculator.uk>



<https://GreenBuildingEncyclopaedia.uk>



<https://GreenBuildingCalculator.uk>

# Wildlife Action

# Inhabitation

- Rats, mice, birds, bats enter buildings for warmth, dryness, gnawing food, breeding and sleeping
- Rodents teeth grow continuously, they gnaw materials to keep them short, anything will be tried including timber structure, cables, insulation and membranes
- Insulation is good bedding material

# Wildlife Action

- Extruded and expanded polystyrene and even high-density mineral fibre are very seriously attacked by "wildlife".
- That's another mechanism by which you can lose most of the r-value of your insulation.
- None of them appear suitable for use in ground contact as was being recommended just a decade or two ago in Sweden, USA and elsewhere.

# Hygroscopic v Hydrophobic

**Moisture and its effect on  
performance**

# Hydrophobic Insulation in masonry

- Glass and rock mineral wool thermal and acoustic insulation
- If used in wet construction e.g. masonry cavity wall the moisture content of the wall is expected to be 3% MC
- Rainwater can pour down the inside face of the external leaf
- Hydrophobic materials in these conditions will absorb moisture in the surface
- The water will occupy the air spaces and prevent the insulation from acting as insulation
- Its performance drops off unless it can lose the water
- High resin content can offer some resistance to water uptake
- Fibre orientation or disorientation can discourage capillary attraction into the depth of the insulation
- Allegedly the insulation keeps the moisture close to the exposed surface and little of the insulation's thickness loses performance

# Hydrophobic Insulation in timber frame

- Glass and rock mineral wool thermal and acoustic insulation
- If used in dry construction e.g. timber frame wall the moisture content of the wall is expected to be low
- However compromised vapour barriers (VB) are only a Vapour check (VC) and some moisture will enter the construction
- Hydrophobic materials in these conditions will adsorb moist air and water
- The moisture will occupy the air spaces and prevent the insulation from acting as insulation
- Its performance drops off unless it can lose the moisture
- High resin content and non absorbent materials offer resistance to moisture uptake into the fibre so it remains in the airspaces.
- 1:5 ratio is critical to the moisture passing through driven by warm air
- If the insulation holds the water it can hold the water against timber sections
- Timber sections kept wet will rot



# Hygroscopic Insulation

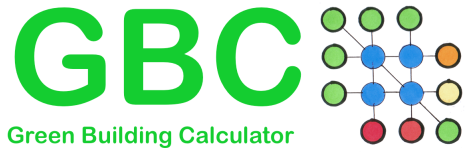
- Any natural plant based material: hemp, straw, flax, coconut husk, cellulose, sheep's wool, grass, etc.
- Air trapped in material is what makes insulation work
- Water does not work in the same way
- Moisture laden air or interstitial condensation occupies the space that air would
- Stops hydrophobic insulation from insulating
- Hygroscopic insulation absorbs the moisture into the fibre leaving the air spaces to insulate
- Releases the moisture when conditions are right and it leaves the construction and building

# Hygroscopic Thermal Insulation



Newspaper  
Flax  
Hemp  
Sheep's wool  
Cellulose





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Green Retrofit Calculator

<https://GreenBuildingCalculator.uk>

# Decrement Delay Thermal Lag

Construction Resources

# Roof Top Extensions

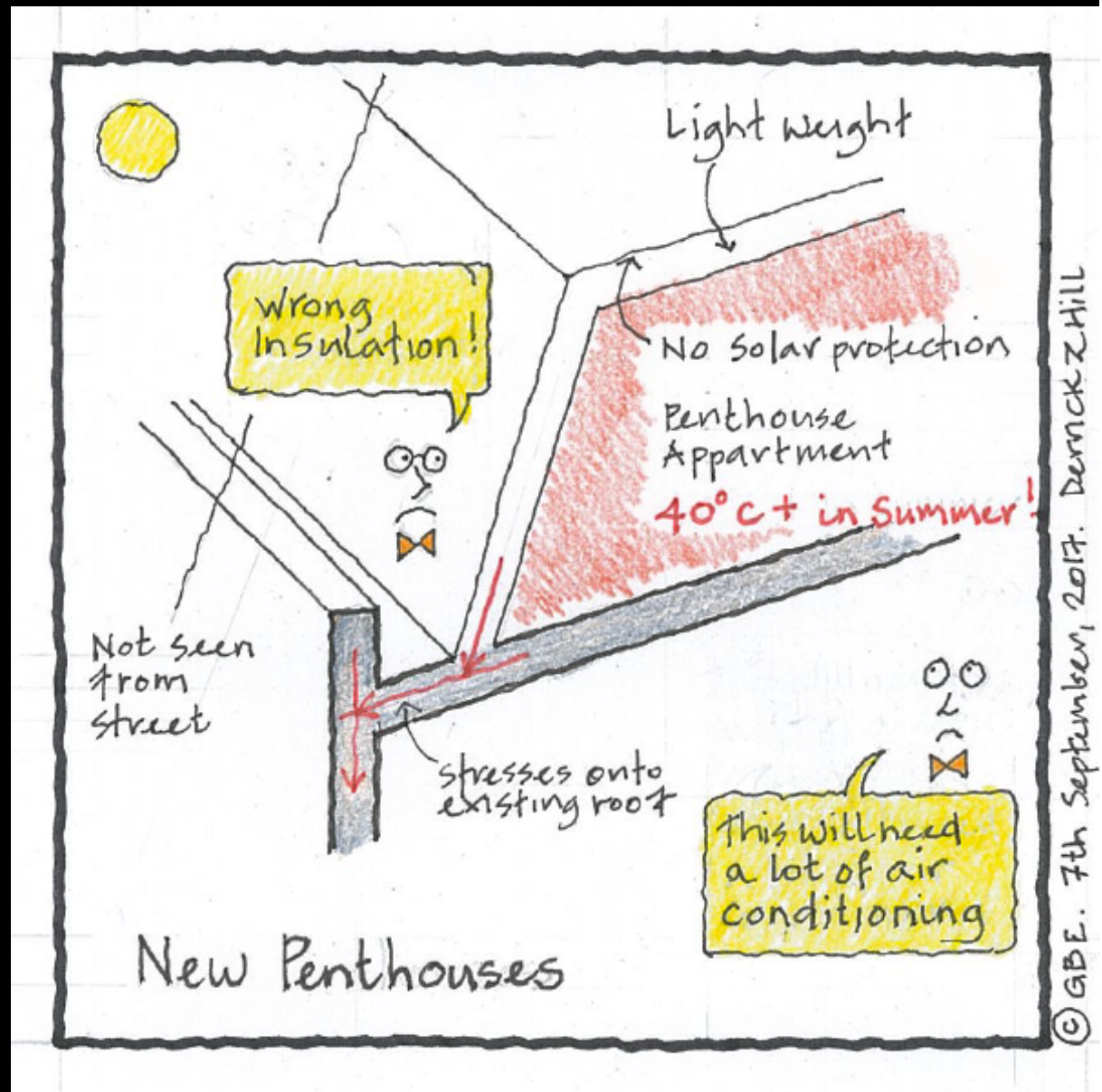
Planners insist  
on top floor  
additions set-  
back

Structure needs  
lightweight  
construction

Comes with with  
wrong insulation

Will overheat

Needs air-con

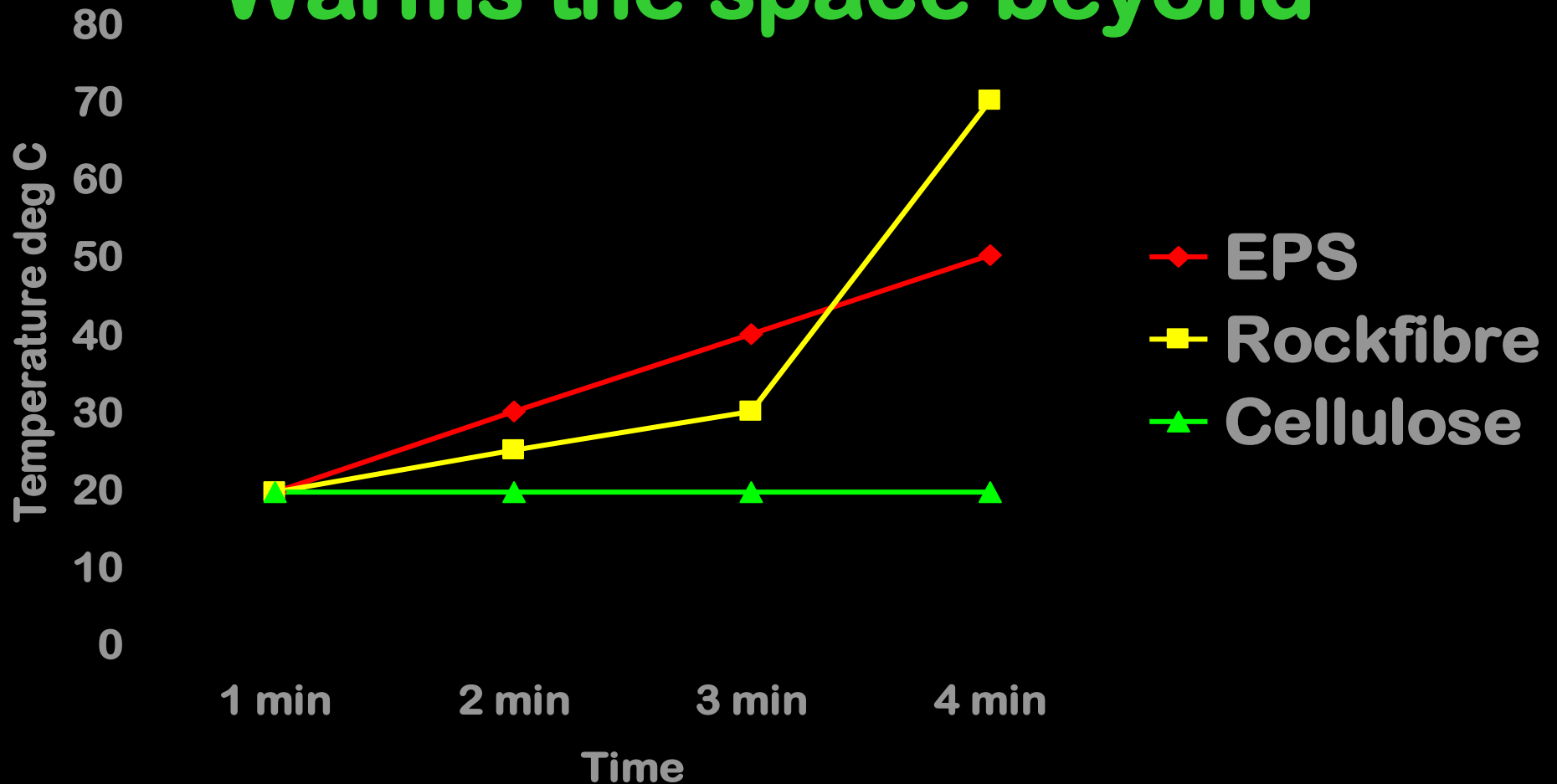




Construction Resources Showrooms Southwark London

# Radiant heat through 50 mm. of thermal insulation types over time

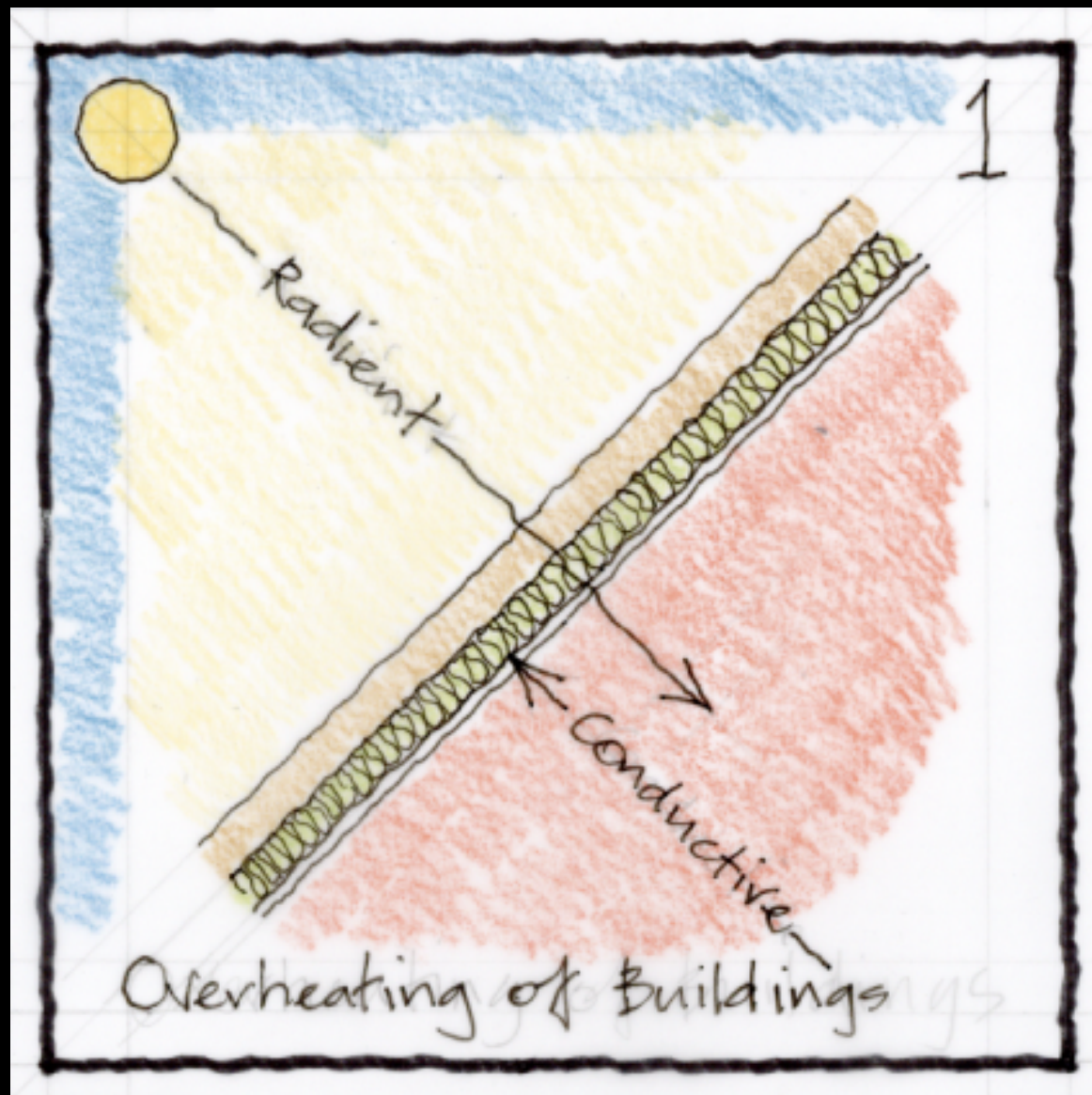
## Warms the space beyond



Construction Resources Showrooms Southwark London

**Radiant  
verses  
Conductive  
heat flows**

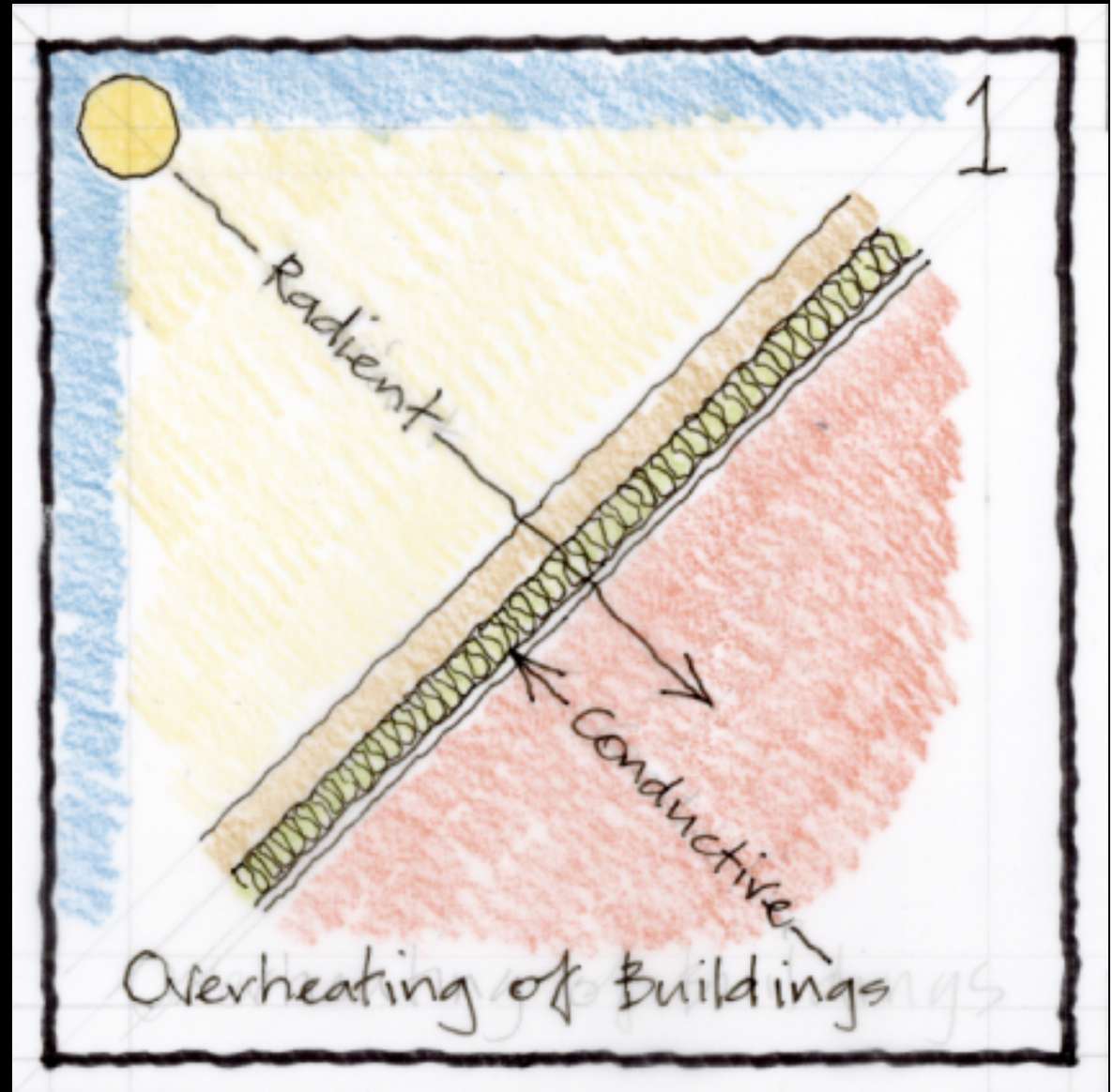
**Insulation  
needs to  
resist both or  
overheating  
occurs**



# Radiant v Conductive

## Thermal Insulation:

Once radiant heat gets in it warms the space and the warmth cannot get out through conductivity insulation





# Radiant v Conductive

- UK Government funded insulation programmes
- Refurbishment and retrofit
- Cavity insulation
- Attic insulation
- Cheap materials: glass and stone wool or polystyrene: all conductive insulation
- Will overheat top floors



- **The insulation heats up with solar radiant heat**
- **The insulation delays the passage of solar radiant heat through thickness of insulation**
- **British Library Euston saw asphalt roofing laid on Foamglas on concrete, heat bounced back and kept asphalt warm, not setting and running down slope, pushed back by installer until cool enough to set**
- **Uninsulated concrete would soak up the heat and the asphalt set quickly**

# Building Integrated Renewables

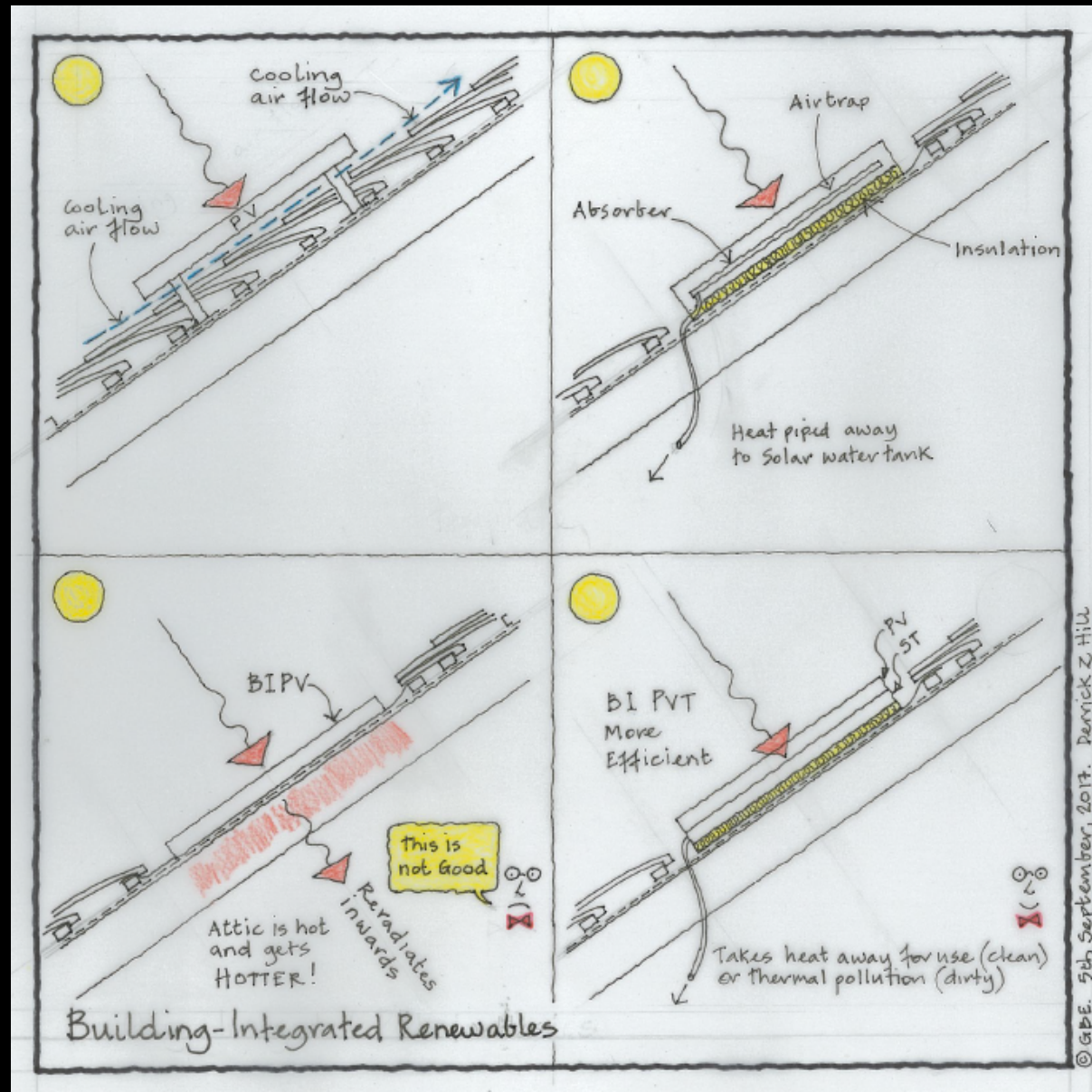
## Building Integrated Renewables

Is it really a good idea?

I don't think so

Non-BIR ventilate below and PVs perform better

BIR PV radiate below into a hot attic



# Decrement Delay Equation

## GBE Green Building Calculator

### Will be added GBC V3?

Decrement delay FU : to give a decrement delay (d) of X hours (defined by the user) for 1 m<sup>2</sup> surface

Property 2: Decrement delay (d), Approach a: Specific Heat Value = Wh/kg.K

Needed data	DL	Design Life of Building	50	Years	Default	Choose this method not the next one
Needed data	CLE	Component Life Expectancy/Replacement period	50	Years	Default or PDS	
Needed data		Material				
Needed data	1	e thickness of material layer	0.3		PDS	
Needed data	2	p Rhô (volumic mass) [density]	700		PDS	
Default data	3	S surface area of wall considered	1		Default	
Needed data	4	λ thermal conductivity	1		PDS	Be careful with units
Needed data (option 1)	6	c Specific heat value	0.58	Wh/kg.K	PDS	See Converter if units are: J.kg/K
Defined by User	7	d Decrement delay (Hours)	12		LookUpTable	Could this be LUT/DDL with options?
Formulas		$d=1,38*e*\sqrt{1/a}$	d	Decrement delay (Hours)		
Formulas		$a=\lambda/p*C$	a	diffusivity		
Formulas		$e=d/1.38*\sqrt{(p*C/\lambda)}$	e	thickness of material layer		
Formulas		$Q=e*S*p$	Q	Quantity		
Calculation		$Q=(d/1.38*\sqrt{(p*C/\lambda)})*S*p*(DL/CLE)$	Q	Quantity		Calculated

Input from:	Product Data Sheets	Result
Specific Heat Value		
from	J/kg.K	to Wh/kg.K
2100		0.583333333



<https://GreenBuildingCalculator.uk>



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<https://GreenBuildingCalculator.uk>

# Acoustic Insulation

## P10 Insulation



# Sheep's Wool Acoustic Isolation

- Used within floor finish build up
- Isolate hard top surfaces from sub-construction
- Footfall should not transfer noises to sub-floor





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<https://GreenBuildingEncyclopaedia.uk>



<https://GreenBuildingCalculator.uk>

# Airtightness Accessories



Green Building Calculator

<https://GreenBuildingCalculator.uk>

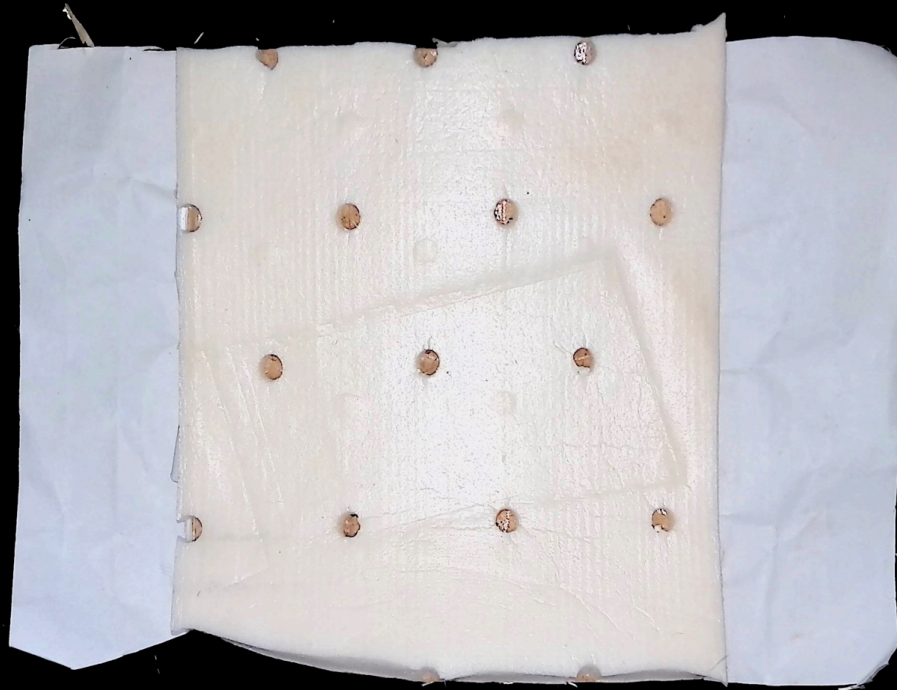


<https://GreenBuildingEncyclopaedia.uk>



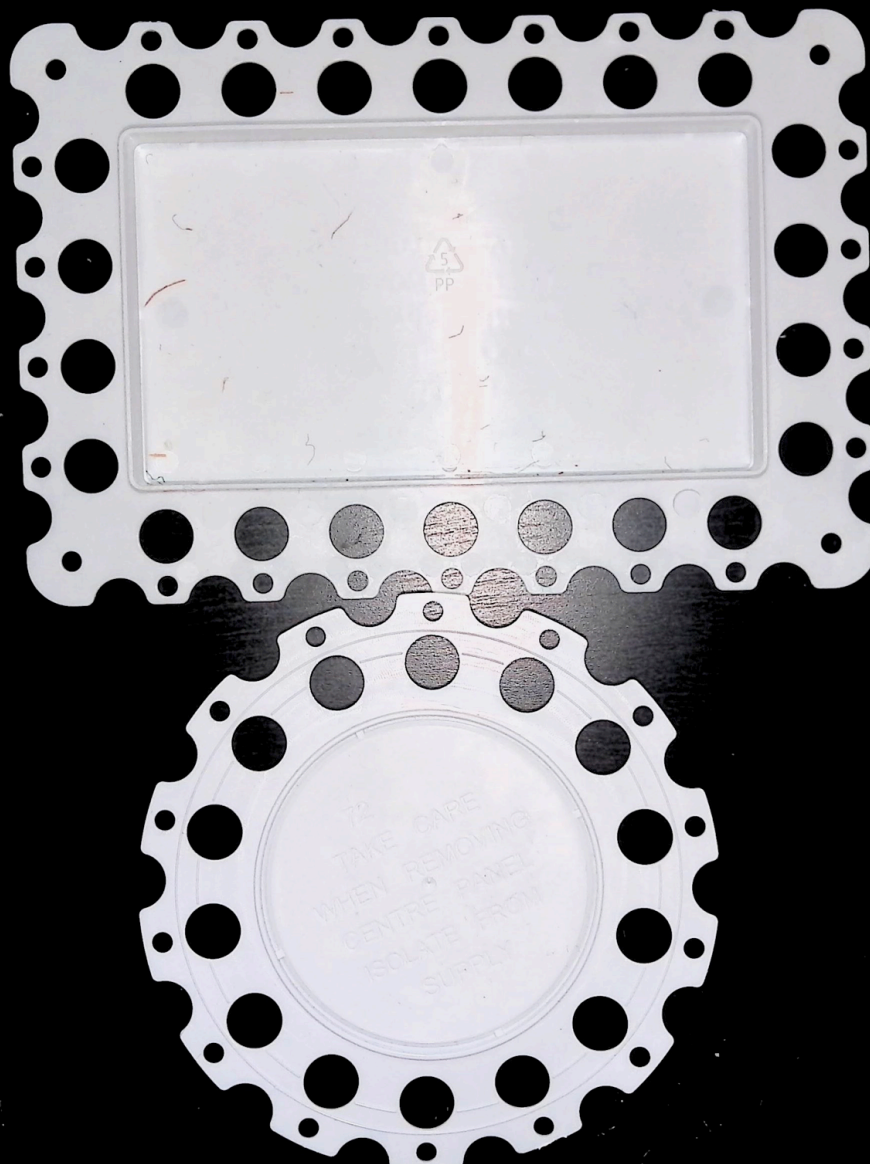
Green Retrofit Calculator

<https://GreenBuildingCalculator.uk>



# Building Regulations AD L update

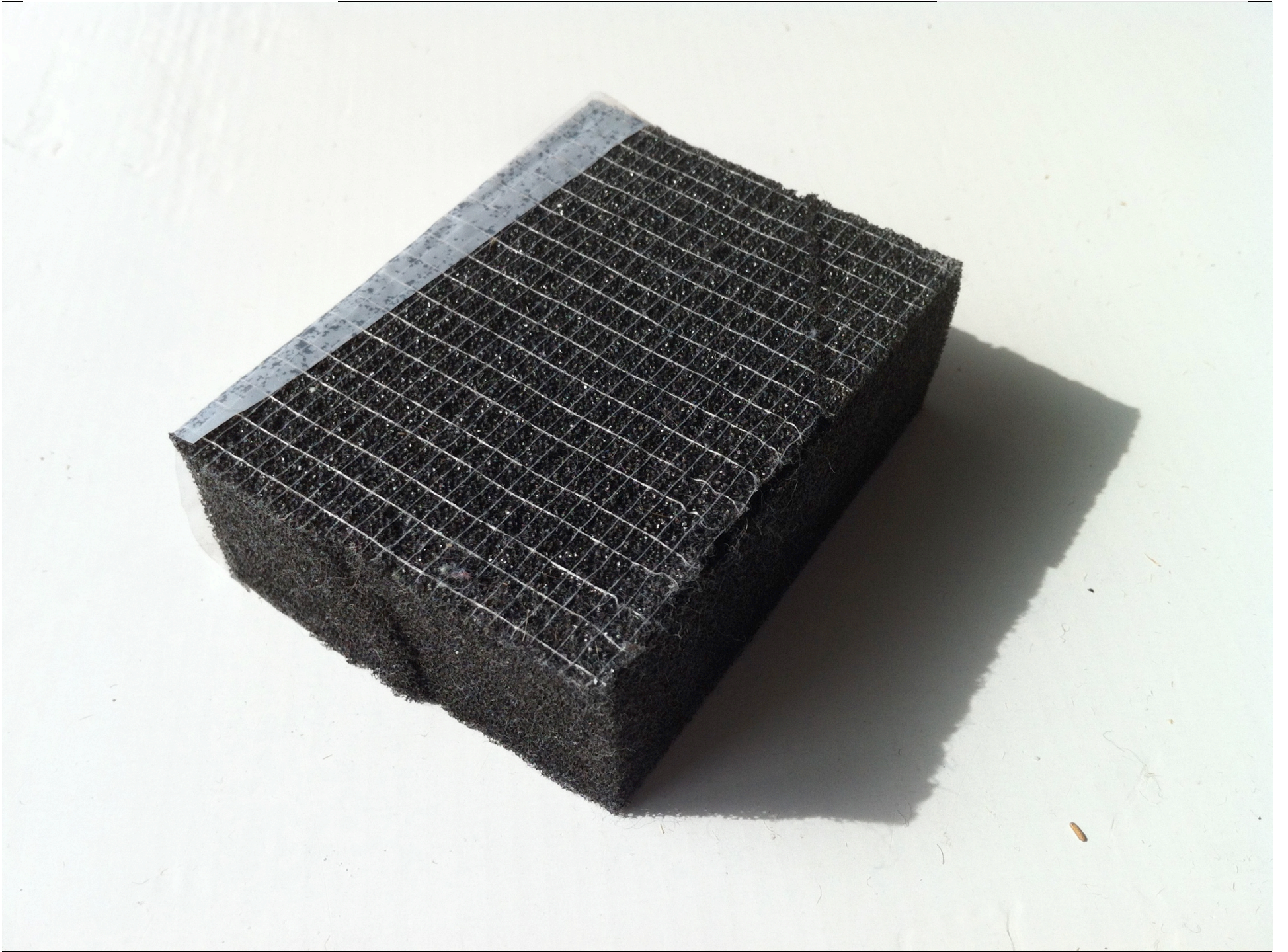
- **Inaccurate fit rigid insulation (expanded plastic/foil face)**
  - Heat loss in winter
  - Heat gain in summer
  - Coolth loss in summer
  - Cold gain in winter
  - Higher than necessary energy demand
    - And carbon from that fuel
  - Interstitial condensation risk
    - Mould risk
    - Rot and Structural failure risk
- **The only practical competent solution: GapOTape**
  - Self adhesive compressible insulation
  - Bonded to edge of rigid insulation boards
  - Squeeze into framing zone
  - Airtight but forces all moisture through timber framing



# Building Regulations AD L

## Airtightness

- Inaccurate fit/seal electrical boxes and membranes
- Heat loss in winter
  - Heat gain in summer
  - Coolth loss in summer
  - Cold gain in winter
  - Higher than necessary energy demand
    - And carbon from that fuel
  - Interstitial condensation risk
    - Mould risk
    - Rot and Structural failure risk
- **A practical competent solution: Bead Master**
  - Ready made square, rectangular or circular beading
  - Makes airtight seal with plaster applied
  - Sharp knife & pop out centre panel



# Window perimeter insulation

- **Self-adhesive Compressed foam strip**
- **Fix to perimeter of windows**
  - Install windows within 3 hours
  - Foam strip will expand to fill the gap
  - The closer the opening to the windows size
  - The more compressed the strip remains
  - Weather and wind tightness, acoustics and thermal performance possible



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# Thermal Insulation Materials





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<https://GreenBuildingEncyclopaedia.uk>

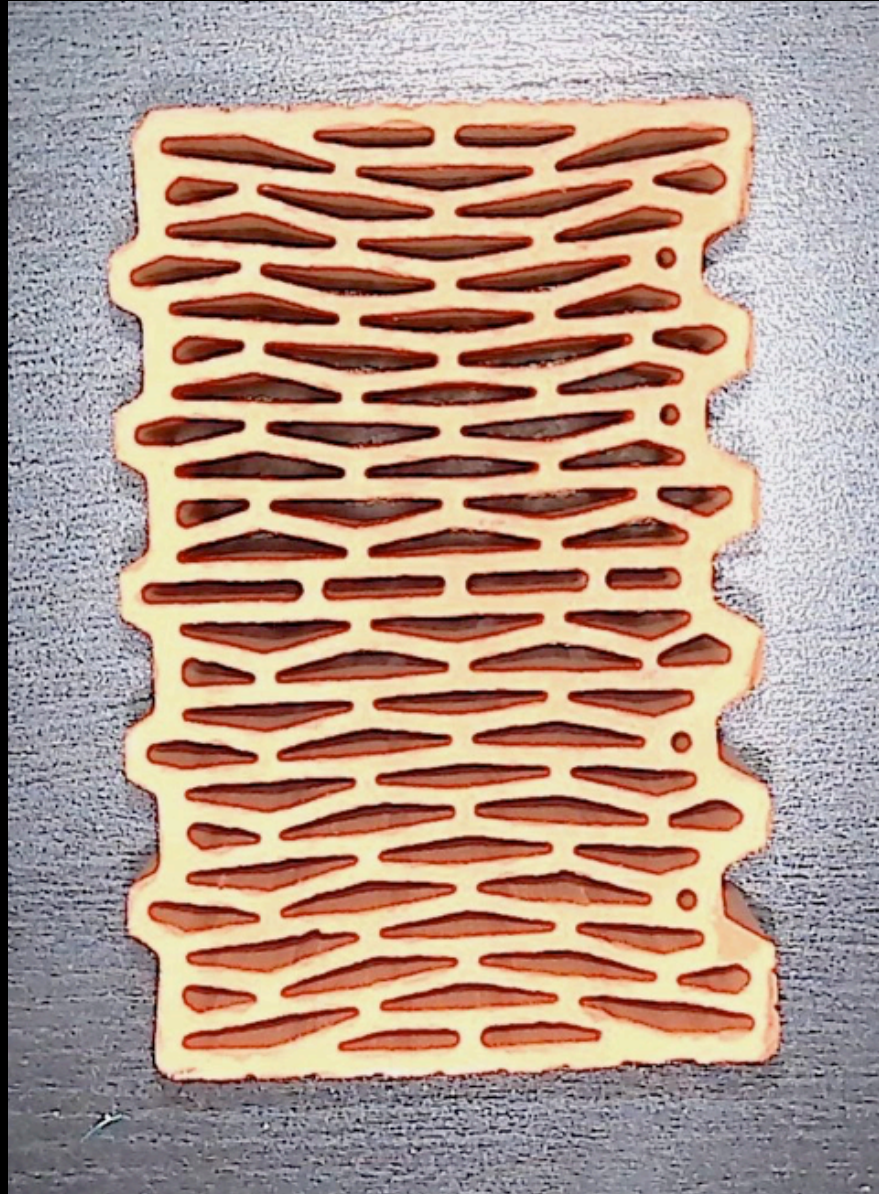


<https://GreenBuildingCalculator.uk>

# Mineral Insulations

# Fired clay

**Extruded Block:  
cellular and long pathways**



# Extruded Fired Clay Block

- Like bricks only much more
- Clay with sawdust that burns off
  - Many small air bubbles throughout clay
- Extruded with many air pockets
  - Small section to minimise eddy currents
- Solid parts create a long pathway from one side of block to the other
- Better k value than fired clay brick
- Better actual performance



<https://GreenBuildingCalculator.uk>



<https://GreenBuildingEncyclopaedia.uk>



<https://GreenBuildingCalculator.uk>

# Aerogel with Mineral Fibre



# Aerogel

- **Silica in solution, water removed**
  - Leaving silica matrix and
  - Microscopic air bubbles
  - Added fibres to reinforce quilt
  - k values better than the best plastic insulation
  - Micro porous
  - Good fire performance (some tested)



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<https://GreenBuildingEncyclopaedia.uk>



<https://GreenBuildingCalculator.uk>

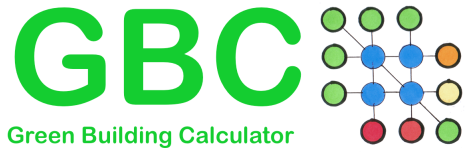
# Aerogel in Paint





# Aerogel in Paint

- **Government Magic wand!**
  - Insulating paint
- **1 mm of Aerogel not a good U value**
- **It's a small improvement in thermal comfort**
  - But mostly to the touch only



Green Building Calculator

<https://GreenBuildingCalculator.uk>



<https://GreenBuildingEncyclopaedia.uk>



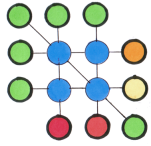
Green Retrofit Calculator

<https://GreenBuildingCalculator.uk>

# Glass Mineral Fibre

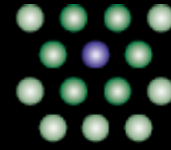
# GBC

Green Building Calculator



<https://GreenBuildingCalculator.uk>

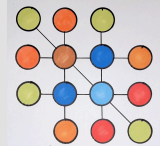
# GBE



<https://GreenBuildingEncyclopaedia.uk>

# GRC

Green Retrofit Calculator



<https://GreenBuildingCalculator.uk>



# Glass Wool

- **Middle of the road k value**
- **No decrement delay at normal density so exacerbates summer overheating**
- **Combustible?**
- **Hydrophobic: No moisture management**
- **Only use in vapour closed thermal construction**
- **Used for acoustics a lot**



<https://GreenBuildingCalculator.uk>



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<https://GreenBuildingCalculator.uk>

# Stone Mineral Fibre



<https://GreenBuildingCalculator.uk>



<https://GreenBuildingEncyclopaedia.uk>



<https://GreenBuildingCalculator.uk>



# Stone Mineral Fibre

- Its Cheap and large market share
- Created from abundant natural resource (stone)
- Also uses Pumice (volcanic rock, renewable but not abundant)
- Saves in-use winter energy (so do all insulation materials)
- No Decrement delay at thermal insulation densities so exacerbates summer overheating
- Offers no solar radiation heat gain protection in summer
- Uses more embodied energy to make it
- **Recyclable** (after many years of use but also degrades with brittleness so not reusable)
- **Hydrophobic** (repels water so water is held in air spaces so cannot insulate, can hold water against timbers)
  -
- **Fire resistant densities:**
  - Non-combustible
  - Used in fire resistant assemblies
  - Almost unique in rainscreen cladding thermal insulation (post-Grenfell)

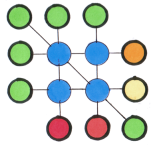


# Cellular Glass (CG)

Foamed into slabs and boards or  
nuggets for aggregates

# GBC

Green Building Calculator



<https://GreenBuildingCalculator.uk>

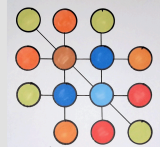
# GBE



<https://GreenBuildingEncyclopaedia.uk>

# GRC

Green Retrofit Calculator



<https://GreenBuildingCalculator.uk>



# Cellular Glass boards

- **The use of Foamglas on British Library Euston (BLE) was extensive**
- **Non-combustible in a Section 20 building**
  - High rise, large m2, public assembly
- **Applications: next slide**

# It was used in: (BLE)

- **Basement perimeter wall internal gutters with asphalt**
  - Foamglas slabs T2 or T4 (thermal) (no paper surface)
- **External Cavity walls partial fill**
  - Foamglas wallboard T2 or T4 (thermal) (papered surface)
- **Forecourt waterproofing with asphalt or high performance felt**
  - Foamglas S3 (structural) and Foamglas slabs T4 (thermal)
- **Flat roofs asphalt**
  - Foamglas slabs T4 thermal (no paper surface) in hot bitumen flood coat
- **Floor insulation under screeds**
  - Foamglas slab S3 (no paper surface)
- **Exposed floor soffit insulation**
  - Foamglas T4 Aluboard (aluminium foil faced)
- **and many other details**
- **But not outside of the basement wall or basement suspended lowest floor.**

# Application

- In all cases the intention was for:
- Bonded to inner leaf and fully filled joints in (paper or foil surfaced) boards to walls and soffits: 2 part adhesive
- (not papered surfaced) slabs in bitumen flood coat to asphalt roofs, gutters and waterproofing to ensure joints filled and tops are squeegeed with excess bitumen, followed by protective/ waterproof membranes.
- In all cases the insulation was protected from moisture ingress and frost damage, even though the insulation itself is water and vapour proof.

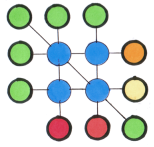
# Precautionary principle (BLE)

- Despite Foamglas being a waterproof and vapour proof material
- BLE did not rely on this and always protected it from water
- treated it as a 2nd or 3rd line of defence in construction on a building with up to 500 year design life for basements and 250 years for superstructure 120 years for external envelop. (BLE)

**GBC**

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**GBE**

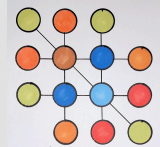
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# Expanded mineral insulation



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# Expanded perlite insulation





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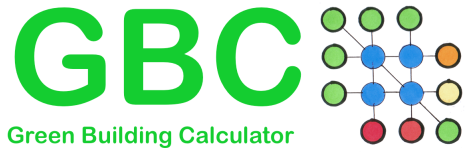


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# Expanded Perlite

- Expanded or Exfoliated?
- Mineral
- Thermal and Fire performance



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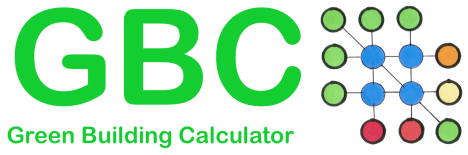


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# Calcium Silicate Expanded mineral insulation



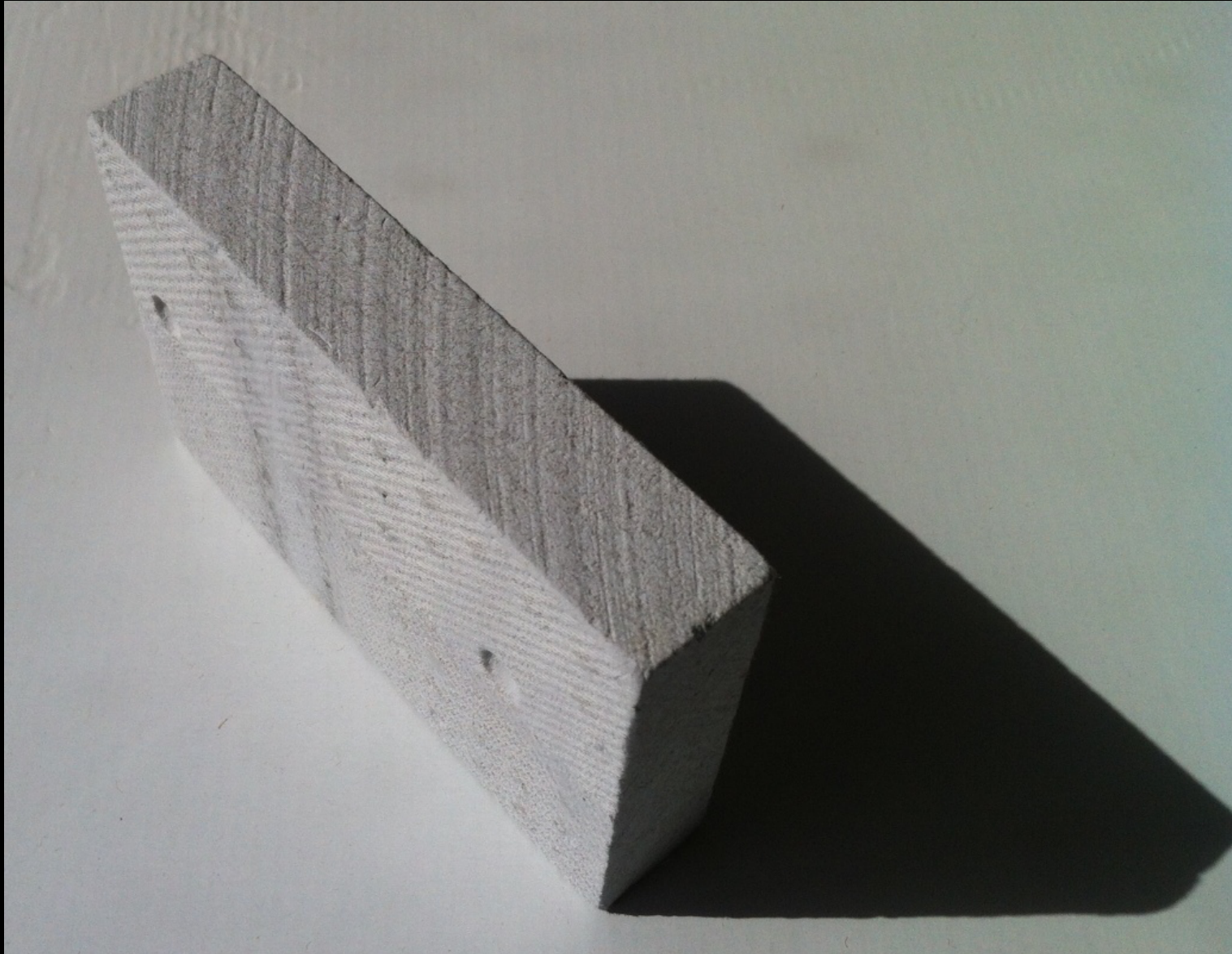
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# Calcium Silicate

- Invented for historic building fabric external masonry walls
- Aerated mineral matrix board
- IWI Internal wall insulation
- Bonded direct to internal surface
- Moisture permeable
- Controls prevents condensation mould



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# Autoclaved Aerated concrete



# Autoclaved Aerated Concrete AAC

## Aerated Concrete AC

- **Steam cured concrete: energy intensive**
- **Binder: OPC Cement matrix**
  - High Energy High Carbon
- **Aggregate: Sand or fine aggregate**
- **Aluminium oxide: Saponification bubbles**
- **Format: AAC block or wall slabs**
- **Format: AC insitu concrete**
- **AAC: Internal wall or partition, wall panel**
- **AC: self insulating ground floor slab**





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# Animal



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# Sheep's Wool

And goat hair



# Hygroscopic Insulation: Sheep's Wool



Designated by Government  
to issue  
European Technical  
Approvals

Second Nature (UK) Ltd

Soulands Gate  
Soulby  
Dacre  
Rensith  
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Tel: 01768 486285 Fax: 01768 486825  
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website: www.secondnatureuk.com

CI/SMB  
R6

Agrément  
Certificate  
No 02/3950

THERMAFLEECE  
Isolation thermique  
Wärmedämmung

## Product



• THIS CERTIFICATE RELATES TO THERMAFLEECE, THERMAL INSULATION BATTS FOR USE IN DWELLINGS AND BUILDINGS WITH SIMILAR TEMPERATURE AND HUMIDITY CONDITIONS

• The batts are for use in:  
loft applications between joists in ventilated and unventilated lofts under pitched roofs and between rafters for tiled or slated pitched roofs designed and constructed in accordance with the relevant clauses of BS 5534-1 : 1997, and  
timber-frame wall applications between studding with a weather-resistant cladding, and a ventilated and drained cavity.

## Regulations — Detail Sheet 1

### 1 The Building Regulations 2000 (as amended) (England and Wales)

The Secretary of State has agreed with the British Board of Agrément the aspects of performance to be used by the BBA in assessing the compliance of insulation with the Building Regulations. In the opinion of the BBA, Thermafleece, if used in accordance with the provisions of this Certificate, will meet or contribute to meeting the relevant requirements.

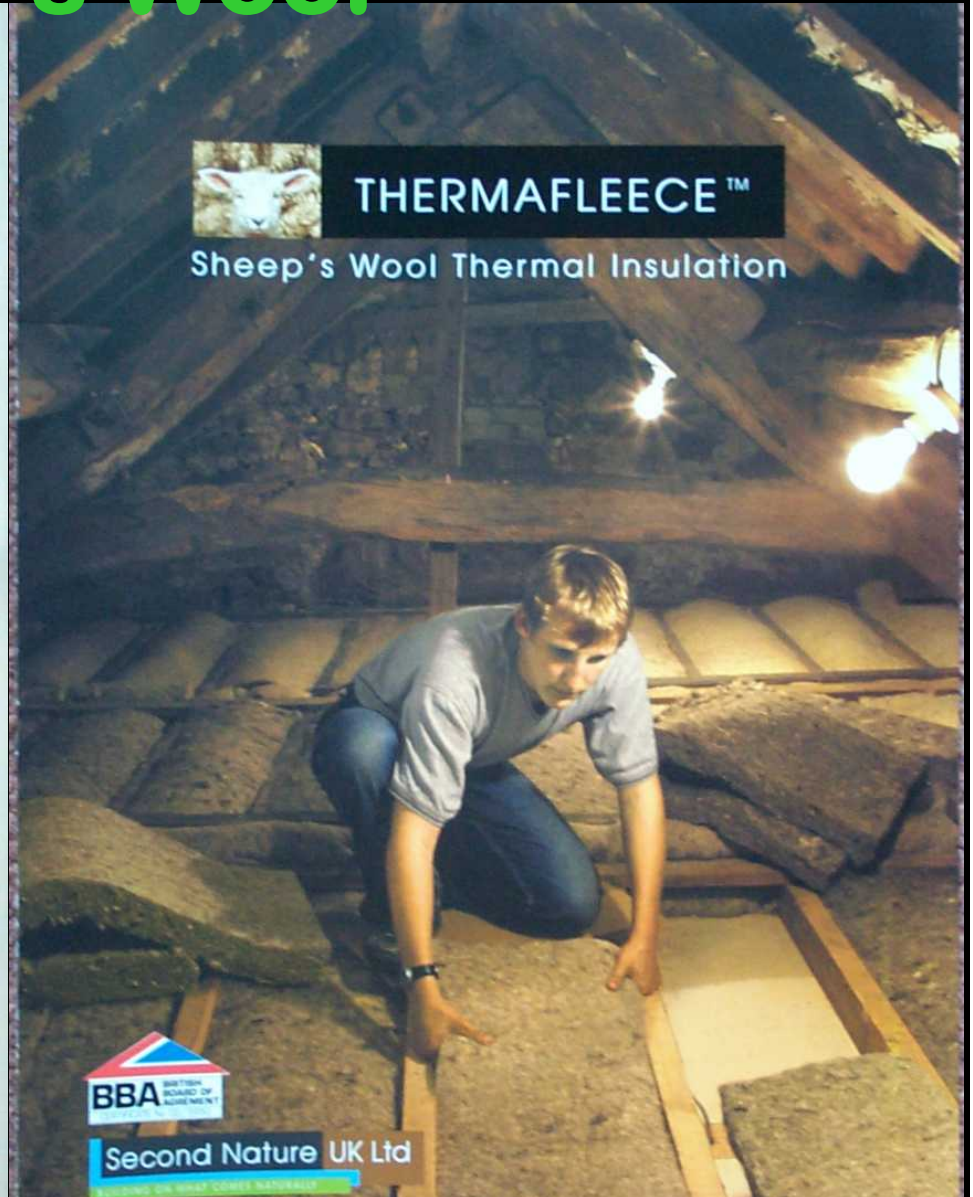
#### General

Requirement:	B3	Internal fire spread (structure)
Comment:		Lofts, roofs and walls incorporating the product can meet this Requirement. See the Behaviour in relation to fire section of the relevant Detail Sheet.
Requirement:	L1	Conservation of fuel and power in dwellings
Requirement:	L2	Conservation of fuel and power in buildings other than dwellings
Comment:		The product can meet or contribute to meeting this Requirement. See the Thermal insulation section of the relevant Detail Sheet.
Requirement:	Regulation 7	Materials and workmanship
Comment:		The product is acceptable. See the Durability section of the relevant Detail Sheet.



THERMAFLEECE™

Sheep's Wool Thermal Insulation



Second Nature UK Ltd

KEEPING THE SHEEP CORRECT NATURALLY

# Sheep's wool

- **When on the sheep's back they are kept warm in winter and cool in summer**
- **Hygroscopicity absorbs moisture into fibre and the insulating action is maintained**
- **But also in summer moisture loss has cooling effect and in winter moisture gain has warming effect**

# Sheep's wool: Cool in Summer

- When outside temperature increases and begins to heat sheep's wool, it releases moisture;
- has a cooling effect on the fibre which reduces the flow of heat to the inside of the building
- Can reduce peak temperature by up to 7°C compared to alternative insulation

# Sheep's wool: Warm in Winter

- In the winter the absorption of moisture by sheep's wool insulation
- can increase peak temperature by up to 4°C
- when compared to buildings in which alternative forms of insulation are installed.



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# Bird feather

Eider down



# Bird feathers

- Used in bedding quilts
- Create still air pockets
- Quilts need drycleaning but cost more to clean than buy new
- Big waste stream to divert from landfill
- Interreg Project investigated converting into construction thermal insulation



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Green Retrofit Calculator

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# Plant fibre

# Hygroscopic Thermal Insulation



Newspaper  
Flax  
Hemp  
Sheep's wool  
Cellulose





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# Coconut Husk Fibre



# Plant fibre - Essence

- Dried fibres minus essence
- Loose, Batts, Quilts, Boards
- MOR k value similar to Mineral Wool
- +Specific Heat Capacity: High
- +Density provides Decrement Delay
- Good winter and summer performance

# Plant Fibre

- **Cork Bark**
- **Hemp shiv**
- **Flax stalks**
- **Straw stalks**
- **Straw board**
  - (Strammit: Not compatible with UK Climate)
- **Grass cuttings**
- **Cotton (but water & chemical intensive)**
- **Denim (ditto)**
- **Many more**

# Cork

**Loose, Boards, Tiles,  
Added to plaster**





# Cork: Tree Bark

- **Portugal, Seasonal production, harvested for limited number of years**
- **Tree based: Bark and binder**
  - Carbon Sequestration
- **Binder: can be combustible, flammable initially**
  - But the cork will char like timber and become fire resistant
- **Many formats:**
  - Loose: Chips
  - Rigid: board, sheet,
  - Flexible: floor tile
- **Decrement: Radiant Thermal Insulation**
- **Hygroscopicity: Moisture Management**
- **Chipped: Added ingredient in renders**



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# Cork: Floor tile

- **Portugal, Seasonal production, harvested for limited number of years**
- **Tree based: Bark and binder**
  - Carbon Sequestration
- **Flexible: floor tile: Thermal comfort on feet**
  - 2-3 mm thickness: good k value, poor U value
- **Decrement: Radiant Thermal Insulation**
  - If laid on concrete it can be warmed through cork tile
- **May get a surface sealer preventing Hygroscopicity**
  - Hygroscopicity: Moisture Management?



# Strawboard

- 50 mm thick panels
- Compacted straw
- Paper surface all round
- Good k value for winter
- Good Decrement factor for summer
- Good fire performance (doors, partitions)
- Good Acoustics (Partitions roofs walls)
- Not good in UK climate: any grains can grow and board expands
- Disappeared from UK market 1970's
- R&D at Brunell University trying to solve it
- Very effective in other dryer climates



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# Wood fibres



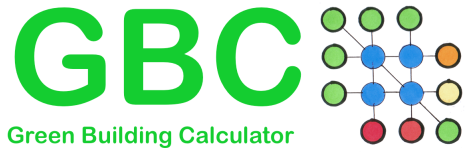


# Wool Fibre Batts or Slabs

- 
- - Framed Walls, Roofs, Floors
  - Solid Masonry: IWI with clay and EWI with lime render
- 
- - (Specific Heat Capacity, Density and k value)
- **k value worse than rock,**
  - Increased thickness needed
- - glass/rock mineral fibre
  - expanded polystyrene plastics insulation

# Dense wood fibre rigid board

- **Wet or dry manufacturing process**
  - Lectin released and used to bind fibres
- **k value little worse than stone wool**
  - Greater thickness needed for winter
- **High decrement delay: good for summer**
- **Hygroscopic:**
  - good for moisture management,
  - use in vapour open construction
- **Rigid: can span between framing**
- **Versatile applications:**
  - Roofs Walls Floors
  - Inside or outside framing



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# Wood Fibre Systems



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**Unger-Diffutherm**  
 Umweltfreundliche innovative Dämmsysteme  
 Innovative Thermal Insulation Systems - Innovative Thermal Insulation Systems

**UdiSPEED<sup>®</sup> SYSTEM**  
 effiziente 40 mm Putzträger-Dämmplatte für den Holzbau  
 • efficient insulation system for timber buildings  
 • système d'isolation efficace pour maisons en bois

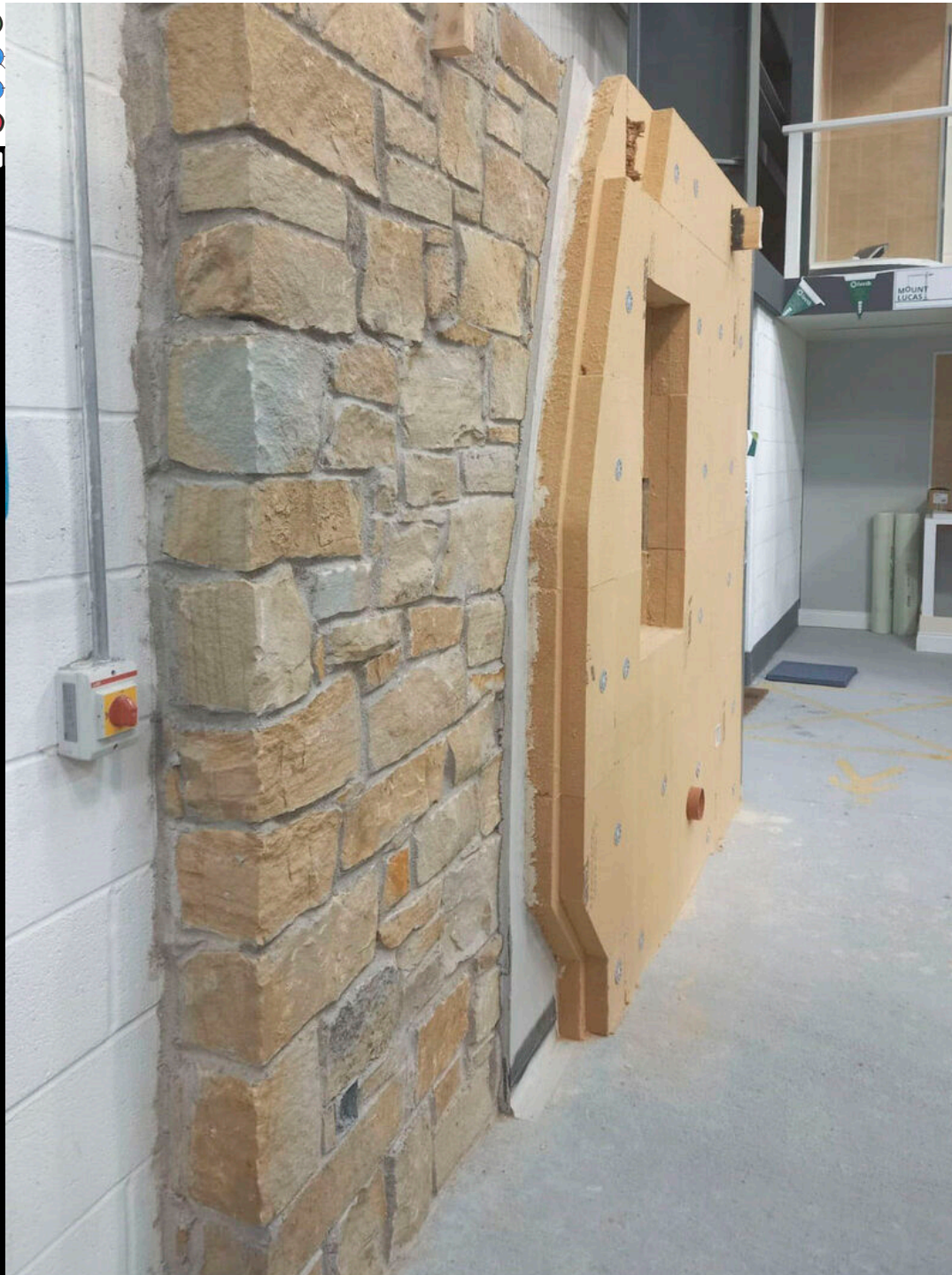
**CE** 130 x 79 cm  
 40 mm

**Unger-Diffutherm GmbH** Telefon +49 (0) 371-81 56 40  
 Blümlenburgstr. 81 Telefax +49 (0) 371-81 56 4-64  
 09114 Chemnitz (Germany) e-Mail info@unger-diffutherm.de

www.unger-diffutherm.com

# Dense wood fibre (DWF) systems

- Original inventors of DWF
- Continuously inventing whole systems
- Versatile applications:
  - Roofs Walls Floors
  - Inside or outside framing
  - IWI & EWI
- Purpose made 'Systems' including accessories and finishes



# Dense wood fiber systems

- Stone walls lumpy profiles
- Rigid boards would create cavities
  - Where moisture cannot jump cavities
  - Moisture stops at cavity
  - Will reactivate any spores in the cavities
  - Mould can grow undetectable
- Vapour permeable adhesive bonded to stone wall, no more cavities
- Moisture transport across wall restored
- Vapour open system





# Wood Fibre Rigid & Soft Insulation

- Stone walls lumpy profiles
- Rigid boards would create cavities
  - Where moisture cannot jump cavities
  - Moisture stops at cavity
  - Will reactivate any spores in the cavities
  - Mould can grow undetectable
- Compressible insulation on back face mould to lumpy profiles of stone wall, no more cavities
- Moisture transport across wall restored
- Vapour open system



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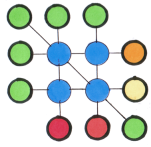
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# Cellulose Fibre

**Recycled Newspaper**  
**Recycled Magazines**

# GBC

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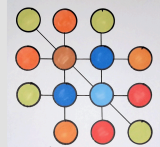
# GBE



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# GRC

Green Retrofit Calculator



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# Cellulose Fibre Flake

- Recycled newspaper/magazine
- Cellulose fibre flake insulation in:
  - Framed Walls, Roofs, Floors
- High acoustic density & high thermal mass whilst k value similar to rock
- Phenomenal summer performance compared to:
  - glass/rock mineral fibre
  - expanded polystyrene plastics insulation



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# Recycled Cloth Insulation

Recycled denim



# Recycled Denim

- **Matisse from France**
- **Available in UK**
- **Denim clothes shredded**
- **Batts**
- **Hygroscopic: Moisture management use on vapour open construction**
- **Some thermal mass**
- **Used in framing zone of lightweight timber frame (LTF)**

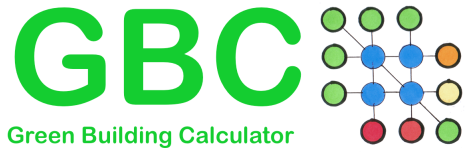






# Recycled Tweed

- Made in Scotland
- Tweed clothes shredded
- Batts
- Hygroscopic: Moisture management use on vapour open construction
- Some thermal mass
- Used in framing zone of lightweight timber frame (LTF)



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# Plastic Insulation

# Plastics

- Potentially less materials
- Potentially better winter performance
- Potentially worse summer performance
- Specification, detailing and Installation workmanship undermines performance
- Gappy insulation is very ineffective
- BRADL has been updated to force use of GapOTape or equivalent



# Polypropylene

- **'Non-itch'** marketed as an improvement over glass or stone mineral wool
- **Finite resource: Petrochemical, hydrocarbon, oil bi-product**
- **Fossil Carbon: Adds to Climate Change**
- **Plastics manufacturing generates:**
  - 
  -
- **Hydrophobic, Moisture impermeable:**
  - use in vapour closed construction
  -
- **No Decrement Delay: can exacerbate overheating**
- **Applications:**
  - 
  -



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# Multi Foils



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# Radiation & Reflection

- **Multi-foil insulation rolls exploit these characteristics**
- **Many layer of metalised plastic foils and expanded polyethylene sheets bound together by stitching**
- **Use of surface resistivity relies on cavities of air space**
- **Outwards**
  - Reflects heat back in
  - Insulates between reflective foils
  - Does not conduct heat outwards
  - Does not radiate heat outwards
- **Inwards**
  - Reflects solar heat back out
  - Insulates between reflective foils
  - Does not conduct heat or coolth inwards
  - Does not radiate heat or coolth inwards

# Controversy

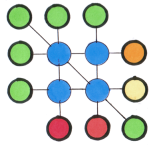
- **Manufacturer claims 19 mm. is equivalent to 250mm. of rock mineral fibre**
- **BSI's Hot box test method does not support this claim**
- **Whole house tests do allegedly**
- **AECB challenge: manufacturer trying to prove it**
- **Dropped the existing product and created a new one with one more layer losing all the baggage**
- **Check their figures**

# Foamed Plastics

**EPS Expanded Polystyrene,  
XPS Extruded Polystyrene,  
PIR, PUR Polyurethane,**

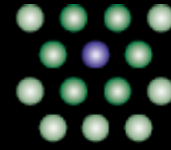
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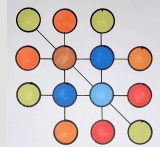
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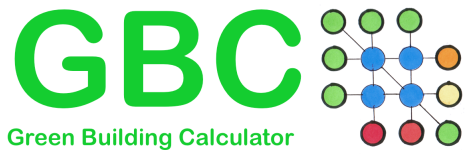


# Expanded Polystyrene (EPS)

- **Finite resource: Petrochemical, hydrocarbon, oil bi-product**
- **Fossil Carbon: Adds to Climate Change**
- **Plastics manufacturing generates:**
  - 4.5% of man made CO<sub>2</sub>
  - And lots of heat energy and its CO<sub>2</sub>
- **Hydrophobic, Moisture impermeable:**
  - use in vapour closed construction
  - Incompatible with historic building fabric
- **No Decrement Delay: can exacerbate overheating**
- **Applications:**
  - Below Ground floor thermal conductivity insulation
    - Protected by Damp Proof Membrane (DPM)
  - Inverted Flat roof construction? multi-layered to minimise cold bridging
    - Needs decrement delay somewhere in the roof element

# Extruded Polystyrene failures

- **Below Ground Insulation**
- **Wet and failed extruded polystyrene,**
- **3 reported instances of this, 2 in Belgium and 1 in France and all on Earthships.**
- **Every building material suffers from failure if badly installed or installed outside manufacturers standard details.**
- **In all the cases, failure was due to poor waterproofing and freeze thaw degradation of the material.**
- **In the cases investigated, the contractors had failed to install either a waterproofing layer or where the board product was used, had cut corners by not using any sealant on the joints.**



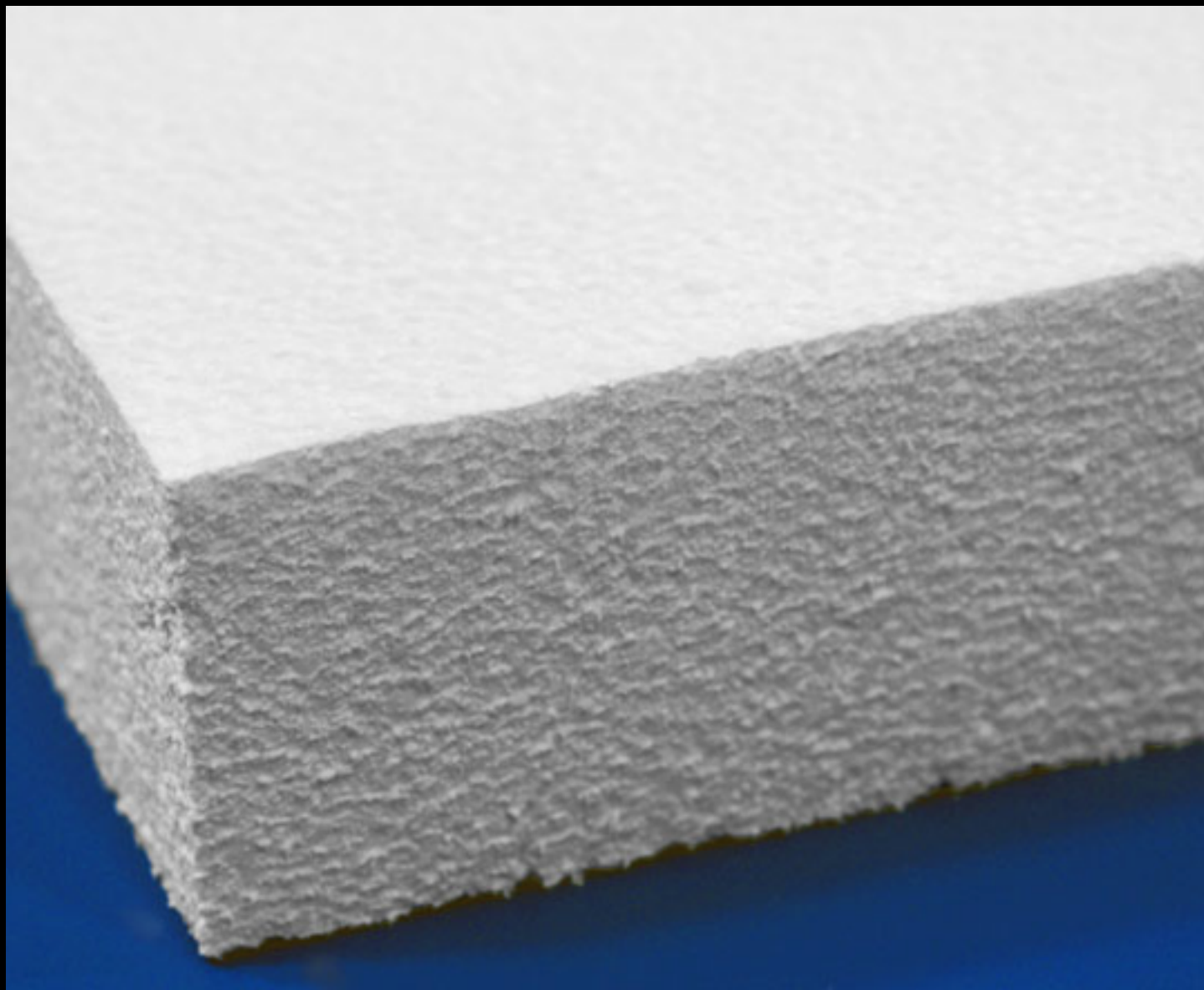
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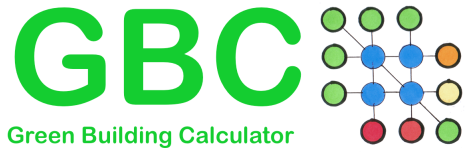






# Recycled Expanded Polystyrene (REPS)

- **Finite resource: Petrochemical, hydrocarbon, oil bi-product**
- **Fossil Carbon: Adds to Climate Change**
- **Plastics manufacturing generates:**
  - 4.5% of man made CO2
  - And lots of heat energy and its CO2
- **Recycled content, Or Graphite added**
- **Hydrophobic, Moisture impermeable:**
  - use in vapour closed construction
  - Incompatible with historic building fabric
- **No Decrement Delay: can exacerbate overheating**
- **Applications:**
  - **Below Ground floor thermal conductivity insulation**
    - Protected by Damp Proof Membrane (DPM)
  - **Inverted Flat roof construction?**
    - multi-layered to minimise rainwater cold bridging
    - Needs decrement delay somewhere in the roof element



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# Rubber Insulation

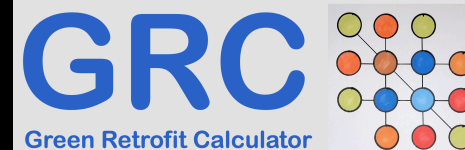


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Green Retrofit Calculator

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SEMPATAP  
THERMAL

MOULD GROWTH CONSULTANTS  
McMILLAN HOUSE - WORCESTER PARK - SURREY KT4 8RH  
Tel: 020 8337 0731 Fax: 020 8337 3739

# Latex Foam

- Invented by mould growth consultants to remove risk of surface condensation in fuel poverty stricken houses
- IWI Internal wall insulation
- Provides the barest minimum of thickness and allows wall papering over
- Offers a degree of thermal comfort
- Thin, okay k value, poor u value
- Same materials as Spitting Image puppet heads



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# Mixed materials



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# Papercrete

**Cement and Paper making fibre sludge**

**GGBS OPC replacements ideally**





# Papercrete

- Paper making waste sludge fibres
- Cementitious binder
  - OPC Ordinary Portland Cement
  - Could be GGBS Ground Granulated Blast Furnace Slag cement
  - Could be blended OPC & GGBS
- Very low density
- High thermal mass: Decrement Delay?
- OPC is water and vapour resistant
- Paper sludge fibres are vapour permeable
- How vapour permeable if the end result?
- Strength: ? Similar low strength Hemp-lime blocks
- Connected two companies to try to bring something to market



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# Cork Diamaceous Earth Render



# Diatomeic Powders, Cork, Clay and Lime Plaster/Render

- **IWI Internal Wall Insulation or EWI External Wall Insulation**
- **Premixed thermal plaster**
  - Ocean floor minerals: Diatomeic Powders
  - Cork granules: 0-3 mm
  - Hydraulic Lime: NHL 3.5
  - Clay
- **Vapour permeability:  $\mu = 4$** 
  - Breathable: compatible with historic walls
- **Capillary water absorption: 0.35 kg/m<sup>2</sup>.hr (Category W2)**
- **Fire: Euroclass A2**
- **Sound absorbing coating**
- **k value: 0.045 W/mk Winter Insulation**
- **Density: 360+/-20 kg/m<sup>3</sup>**
- **Decrement delay: Summer Insulation**
- **Inert and recyclable**
- **Indoor Air Quality: Low VOC emissions**
- **Manufacturer: Diasen**
- **Product Reference: Diathonite Evolution**



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# Hemp-lime



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# Hemp-lime Hempcrete

- Hemp shiv fibres
- Rapidly renewable plant fibre
- Lime binder
- Very low density
- High thermal mass: Decrement Delay?
- Lime is water and vapour permeable
- Hemp shiv fibres are vapour permeable
- How vapour permeable if the end result?
- Strength: ? Similar low strength Hemp-lime blocks
- NGS Connected two companies to try to bring something new to market with a new non-cementitious binder

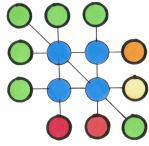
# Hemp Lime Applications

- Insitu spray on to walls
- Insitu spray into cassette panels
- Insitu compact into diaphragm wall cavity
- Insitu ground bearing floor
- Non-loadbearing blockwork
- Loadbearing blockwork ? Add cement?



# GBC

Green Building Calculator



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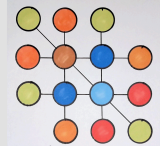
# GBE



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# GRC

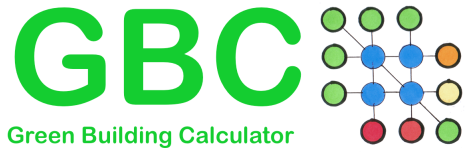
Green Retrofit Calculator



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# Tradical Hemp-lime Hempcrete

- **Hemp shiv fibres**
- **Rapidly renewable plant fibre**
- **Lime binder: Slow set, softer bond, high energy, high carbon**
- **Cementitious binder added to drive the lime's hydration**
  - OPC Ordinary Portland Cement, fast set, strong bond, very high energy, very high carbon
- **Aluminium oxide: saponification reaction with cement generated bubbles**
  - Bubbles add thermal insulation
- **Phase Change characteristic**
- **Very low density**
- **High thermal mass: Decrement Delay**
- **Lime is water and vapour permeable**
- **OPC is water and vapour resistant**
- **Hemp shiv fibres are vapour permeable**
- **How vapour permeable if the end result?**
- **Strength: ? Similar low strength Hemp-lime blocks, very low strength**
- **Manufacturer: Lhoist**
- **Product Reference: Tradical**



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# Lightweight Cob Clay-Straw



# Interreg CobBauge Project

- **Cob=English, Bauge=French**
- **Earth (Clay recipe) and straw**
- **21<sup>st</sup> Century Cob (Regulations)**
- **Traditional Cob is Structure, Thermal mass and weather exclusion**
- **CobBauge combines: (see previous slide)**
  - structural mix cob (yellow) with
  - light clay straw/hemp insulating mix cob (brown)



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# Mixed materials Multi-component systems



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# SIPs Structural Insulated Panels





# Structural Insulated Panels SIP

- **OSB Oriented Strand Board skins**
  - Biobased but added chemistry binder
- **PUR Polyurethane**
  - Non-renewable fossil fuel bi-product
  - High carbon: adds to climate change
  - Toxic in fire
- **Panel jointing adhesive: more chemistry**
- **Good k value for winter**
- **Poor decrement factor for summer**
- **High risk of overheating in summer**



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# ISPs Insulated Structural Panels

**Structural Timber cassette  
panels any insulation fill**



### Thermal Performance

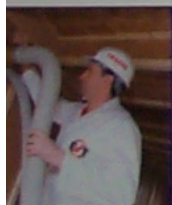
With an impressive thermal conductivity value ( $\lambda$ ) of only 0.036 W/mK in walls and 0.035 W/mK in lofts, Warmcel's 'in use' performance is further enhanced by its ability to create a high level of airtightness to help seal a building against air infiltration and prevent thermal convection currents.

The proven methods of application ensure the insulation provides a complete seal to prevent heat loss, eliminating gaps, cracks or other cold bridges.



### Fire Performance

As the photograph demonstrates, Warmcel is extremely resistant to fire. Its remarkable performance is achieved through the addition of simple inorganic salts, enabling it to



EVT Breathing Technology wall panel, the fire resistance properties of Warmcel saw the panel exceed 71 minutes when exposed to temperatures of up to 1000°C.

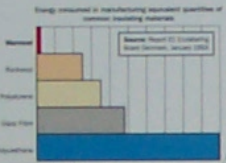
Throughout the test the external face of the EVT Breathing Technology wall panel remained at a cool 17°C.

**Warmcel® is the only insulation material with BBA approval for use in timber framed structures that is able to demonstrate a 20 year record of successful installations.**



### Environmental

Manufactured from 100% recycled waste newspaper, Warmcel has extremely low embodied energy, requiring far less energy to produce than any other mainstream insulation material.



Warmcel has zero ODP (Ozone Depletion Potential). It does not contain any added formaldehyde and is free from CFCs, volatile organic compounds (VOCs) or other toxic substances. And

Warmcel is formulated to protect it against any potential hazards that may be encountered in use. It is resistant to biological and fungal attack, treated against insects and is unattractive to vermin. Warmcel is also harmless to other common building components such as copper pipes, electric cabling and metal nail-plate fasteners.

### The EVT Standard



The EVT Standard describes a particular make-up of building structure, which performs in a very specific manner. The structure may be individual elements of the building, such as the walls, floor or roof, or the complete building envelope. The fundamental criteria determining if a structure meets the EVT Standard are defined by a combination of the design of the structure, the components used in its manufacture and its 'in use' performance.

### EVT Structures

EVT Breathing Technology Structures comply with the EVT Standard. They combine high levels of insulation with the ability to 'breathe' in such a way as to ensure any natural moisture ingress always migrates safely and completely to the external atmosphere where it is harmlessly expelled.

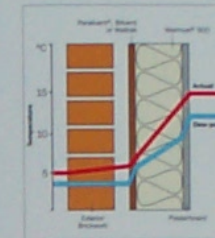
### No Vapour Barrier

In conventional timber frame, the more vapour resistant plywood is on the outside of the wall rather than the inside. As a result of this imbalance, a plastic vapour barrier is required to prevent any moisture ingress. However, the effect of this is to all but eliminate vapour diffusion through the wall. EVT Breathing Technology Structures do not need a vapour barrier.

### Perfect Balance

EVT Breathing Technology utilises components that provide the perfect balance of vapour resistivity and permeability to achieve true breathability. This balance is designed

around Warmcel 500 Breathing Insulation, which has the ability to promote the migration of moisture through the structure and is the only insulation material that has been exhaustively tested to prove its effectiveness in EVT Breathing Technology Structures.

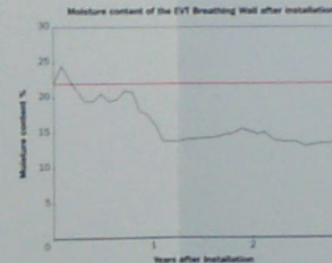


This unique combination ensures diffusion is maximised, in a controlled way, to make the structure as free to the passage of water vapour as possible, an effect known as Enhanced Vapour Transfer (EVT).

### Extensive Testing

All components used in EVT Breathing Technology Structures have been carefully selected in conjunction with Warmcel 500, following extensive testing, to provide the correct vapour compatibility that allows water vapour to diffuse naturally through the structure without risk of interstitial condensation.

Only approved components will ensure the integrity of the EVT structure is maintained. Substitute components, untested in combination, may not perform to their design criteria.

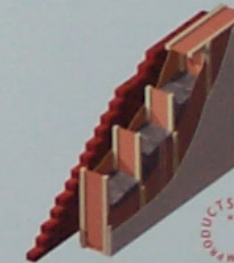


### TRADIS® - The Next Generation

TRADIS is a range of factory-produced structural wall panels, roof plates and floor cassettes that enables a complete house shell to be constructed in less than a day.

It also exemplifies the principles proposed by Sir John Egan's 'Rethinking Construction' report, which calls for more standardisation and off-site manufacture and addresses the DETR's sustainability objective of less wasteful, more energy efficient build processes and technology.

Based on the well-proven closed panel EVT Breathing Technology solution, TRADIS combines all the performance benefits offered by the closed panel system, with the erection benefits of a factory engineered product, including dimensional accuracy, consistency and quality controlled compatibility.



Design features of TRADIS also offer on-site advantages. For example, wall panels can be supplied with doorframes and fully glazed windows already in place, so that once erected, the building interior is immediately weather protected.

An in-built service zone on the interior side of each panel facilitates the rapid installation of following services, allowing finishing times to be dramatically reduced without disturbing the integrity of the panel.

And a roof constructed from TRADIS automatically produces a 'Room-in-the-Roof' feature, without further work or adaptation, producing extra valuable living space for the same size house footprint.

### Components that meet the EVT Standard

**Warmcel® 500**  
Warmcel 500 is the heart of the EVT Breathing Technology Solution. In addition to outstanding thermal performance, its excellent hygroscopic properties promote the migration of water vapour through the wall, floor or roof to the outside. Furthermore, this capability enables it to absorb surplus water vapour at times of high internal humidity and release it when conditions allow.

**Masonite® Beams**  
EVT Breathing Technology walls, floors and roofs can be manufactured from standard timber, but, for maximum performance, it is recommended that Masonite Beams are used. They enable the Warmcel 500 to interlock with the wall studs, floor or roof joists, thereby maximising the integrity of the insulated section. Masonite Beams are themselves designed for minimal load bridging, featuring only an 8mm thick web between two flanges of sustainable Swedish whitewood.

**Panelvent®, Bitvent and Walltrak**

For EVT Breathing Technology walls, only Panelvent, Bitvent or Walltrak external sheathing offer the correct vapour compatibility for guaranteed performance. The only sheathing products to have been extensively tested for EVT Breathing Technology applications, they provide high racking strength and exhibit excellent weather resistance.

**Paneline**  
Paneline is the internal sheathing on TRADIS panels.

**Rooftrak**  
In an EVT Breathing Technology roof, Rooftrak replaces traditional felt. Bitumen-free and manufactured from sustainable materials, Rooftrak provides the combined benefits of racking strength, added insulation and weather protection. This profiled, interlocking board accommodates mid-span joints to minimise waste, while ensuring the finished roof is also wind and watertight.

**All of these components have been selected to create a healthy living environment and do not produce any harmful emissions.**

# Insulated Structural Panels ISP

- **Plywood, chipboard or OSB skins**
  - Biobased but added chemistry binder
- **Any insulation ideally biobased**
  - Rapidly renewable agricultural bi-product
  - High Sequestered carbon: reduce climate change
  - Hygroscopic: Moisture management
- **Dry Panel jointing or taped joints**
- **Good k value for winter**
- **Good decrement factor for summer**
- **Low risk of overheating in summer**



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# Vacuum Insulated Panel VIP



# Vacuum Insulated panels VIP

- Aluminium Foil envelope
- Plastic spherical balls accurately packed with 12 points of contact between each
- Air sucked out of envelop
- Vacuum in interstices between spheres
- Best ever thermal insulation k value
- No decrement delay
  - Sun's heat passes through vacuum of space without hindrance



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# Lightweight Thermal Mass

- **Dense wood fibre outer layers**
- **Cardboard honeycomb core**
- **Cardboard cells contain wax**
- **Phase change materials (PCM):**
  - Phases: Solid, Liquid & Gas
  - Fluidity: ability to move between phases
  - Changing phases: gains or released heat energy
  - Wax stores or releases heat energy
- **Adds thermal mass to partitions and freestanding screens**
- **22:26 Austria: Suggestion**
  - Reduce 700 mm extruded clay walls to 500 mm
  - Add back lightweight thermal mass IWI



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# Wood Fibre based Systems

- **IWI: Wood fibre board with moisture permeable plaster skim**
- **EWI: Wood fibre board with moisture permeable lime render**



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# File Updates

Rev No.	Comments	Author	Date
A01	First created, up to revision 93	BRM	10/03/2007
A02	GS to GBE Logos, Rev Table added, major update for GBE CPD @ MMA	BRM	01/07/2023-03/07/2023
A03	Added more scanned sample images	BRM	04/07/2023
A04	After CPD added more text, slides, etc. Posted on GBE website	BRM	06/07/2023
A05		BRM	03/07/2023
A06		BRM	03/07/2023
A07		BRM	03/07/2023
A08		BRM	03/07/2023
A09		BRM	03/07/2023
A10		BRM	03/07/2023



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- Created: GB Learning: <https://GBELearning.com> 2020 - 2021
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