

Insulation

It's vital that the type of insulation you choose is suited to your home so you get the maximum benefit. It's a good idea to have a supplier come to your home to assess what type of insulation you need. Obtaining three quotes will normally give you a good idea about the different types of insulation and costs involved.

When choosing insulation, the most important factor to consider is the insulation's R-value. The R-value is the measure of a material's resistance to heat flow. The higher the R-value, the greater a material's resistance to heat transfer and the greater the energy saving. In Brisbane, the R-value should be:

- ceiling insulation – at least R 2.5
- wall insulation – at least R 1.0

Tips

- make sure the manufacturer can substantiate the product's R-value with evidence of independent testing from an organisation such as the CSIRO
- some products have high R-values in summer but low values in winter – these products generally provide good protection in summer but allow heat to escape in winter and may not be suitable in homes with heaters
- consider the acoustic rating of the insulation – this may help filter out neighbourhood noise
- ensure your insulation is professionally installed