



Ken Field

Owner of Slate Belt Energy Services

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Windowsills

I don't even know where to begin. The biggest difference a homeowner will notice about homes built under the new insulation standard are the windowsills. If the new standards are put in place the insulation requirement for walls will cause the walls to be built with 2x8 or 2x10 lumber instead of the 2x6 lumber that is used today. As of this moment, if a home is insulated with spray foam, 2x4 can still be used. What upsets me is the money that manufacturers of insulation spend on promoting junk.

Fiberglass insulation rarely or maybe even never actually achieves the rating unless it is being tested in a laboratory. Why is that? Because it is almost NEVER installed correctly, especially in an attic or a vaulted ceiling. Those 2 places are the most important places for good R value because the heat is just pushing to exit there. Walls are important too but not nearly as much as the attic. A home needs to be relatively air tight to be able to contain the air that you pay to heat and it also needs to be insulated so the heat can't be conducted through the ceiling. If those 2 rules are followed, you would be amazed how little energy would be needed to heat a home. I have completed hundreds of insulation jobs in all kinds of homes and have done everything from retrofit to complete new home insulation.

I have never just used fiberglass because it is a joke. I will use it as part of an insulation system but not all of one. The best value comes from using the least expensive material to achieve a guaranteed outcome. Fiberglass alone is never a guarantee of value, just a cheap method accepted by inspectors.

I am glad to see some new batt insulation on the market that will work much better. It is a little more expensive and takes a little more time to install so corporate builders won't use it but smaller builders are embracing the opportunity to build a better home. Opponents of spray foam cry about ozone depletion and use of chemicals but nothing beats closed cell foam for insulating and stopping infiltration. Fiberglass is made in a blast furnace and that isn't exactly environmentally friendly from any perspective. It just doesn't happen on your property so that makes it OK. If this country wanted to build homes that would conserve energy for the next 100 years, it could be done easily. But that doesn't fit the strategy of the Johns Manville corporation. If you are a remodeler or builder, you owe it to your clients to offer better insulation.

Ken Field is the owner of Slate Belt Energy and Field's Service, Inc. As a certified energy rater and contractor, he is qualified to assess every aspect of energy usage and prescribe solutions to save energy. He can be reached at 610-759-6306 or email Ken@FieldsService.com

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LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO REMEDIATE FOR STATEWIDE HEALTH STANDARDS [SECTIONS 302(e)(1)(ii), 303(h)(1)(ii), 304(n)(1)(i), and 305(c)(1)]

Pursuant to the Land Recycling & Environmental Remediation Standards Act, the act of May 19, 1995, P.L. 4, No. 1995-2., notice is hereby given that Turkey Ridge Properties, owner, is submitting to the PA Dept. of Environmental Protection a Notice of Intent to Remediate (NIR) a property, located at 4136 Church Street, Upper Mount Bethel Township, Northampton Co., Pa. This NIR states that the site is a non-residential property that has been found to be contaminated with polyaromatic compounds. Additional site investigations indicate that the soil contamination was limited to the area of the former septic tanks. The proposed remediation measures will be excavation and off-site disposal of contaminated soils and removal. The proposed future use of the property will remain non-residential.

NEWSPAPER NOTIFICATION OF A FINAL REPORT SUBMITTAL STATEWIDE HEALTH STANDARD [SECTIONS 302(e)(2), 303(h)(2)]

Notice is hereby given that Envirosearch Consultants, Inc., on behalf of Turkey Ridge Properties, owner, is submitting a final report to the PA Department of Environmental Protection, Northeast Regional Office, to demonstrate attainment of the Statewide Health Cleanup Standard (SHS) for a property, located at 4136 Church Street, Upper Mount Bethel Township, Northampton County, Pa. Envirosearch has indicated that the remediation measures taken for soil have attained compliance with the SHS established under the Land Recycling and Environmental Remediation Standards (LRS) Act.

This notice is made under the provisions of the LRS Act, the act of May 19, 1995, P.L. 4, No. 2.