WHY CRAWLSPACE INSULATION?

How you insulate a crawlspace depends on whether it's ventilated or unventilated. Most building codes require vents to aid in removing moisture from the crawlspace. However, many building professionals now recognize that building an unventilated crawlspace (or closing vents after the crawlspace dries out following construction) is the best option in homes using proper moisture control and exterior drainage techniques.

Have you ever walked barefoot across a tile or vinyl floor and noticed that it seemed very cold?. Insulating the crawlspace or basement increases the comfort level in your home and decreases heating and cooling expenses.

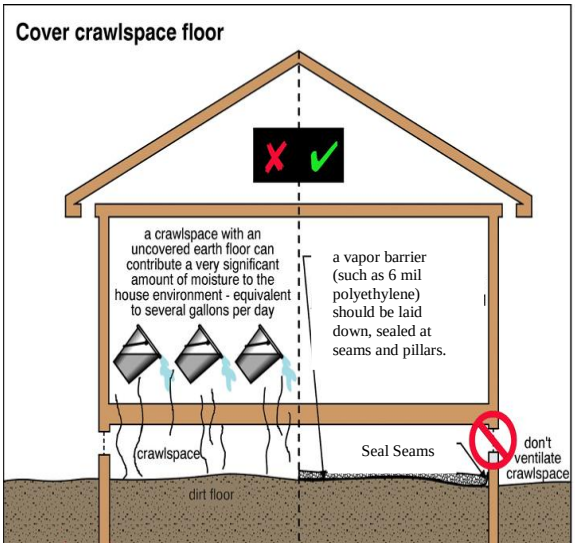
A crawl space with adequate drainage will still have moisture problems, coming from two major sources: the **ground** and the **outside air**. Ground water will evaporate into a dirt-floored crawl space and soak the joists and wooden structures. It will also infiltrate concrete walls and floor causing them to be damp most of the time. It is not possible to effectively insulate a crawlspace without eliminating these major moisture sources.

If you have an unventilated crawlspace, the best approach is to seal and insulate the foundation walls rather than the floor, between the crawlspace and the house. This strategy has the advantage of keeping piping and ductwork within the conditioned volume of the house so these building components don't require insulation for energy efficiency or protection against freezing. The downside of this strategy is that rodents, pests, or water can damage the insulation and the crawlspace must be built airtight and the Vapor Barrier maintained. It's best to locate the access door to the crawlspace inside the home through the subfloor unless you build and maintain an airtight, insulated access door in the perimeter wall. A vapor barrier slows or prevents the evaporation of ground moisture into the crawl space air. A vapor barrier resists the passage of air. This is important because once moisture reaches the inside of the home, it can cause mold and mildew damage, wood rot, insect infestations and blistering paint.

Fiberglass is wrong. Batts installed between joists in a crawl space absorb moisture, lose R-value, and often fall out of place. A poorly insulated crawl space is likely to be excessively damp, encouraging the growth of mold and wood rot.

ADVANTAGES:

- No internal living space is lost as all the insulation is on the outside walls.
- Can help reduce condensation problems and black mold growth.
- No need to vacate the house and no need to move furniture and fittings.
- Reduces heat loss.
- The risk of condensation and cold-bridging is eliminated as the whole building is wrapped in insulation.
- Thicker or higher performing insulation can be used resulting in warmer walls.
- No internal redecoration is required, particularly kitchens and bathrooms.
- Dramatically reduce drafts in the winter.
- Quieter home – far less noise penetrates the walls



Start Saving Energy and Money With A Crawl Space and Basement Insulation Upgrade.