

Recommended Insulation R-Values by Climate Zone

The attic, wall and floor targets our calculators use for each US climate zone, with the depth of blown-in insulation each attic target takes and the bags per 1,000 sq ft.

Targets by climate zone

Zone	Typical areas	Attic	Wall (cavity)	Floor	Blown fiberglass for attic target	Blown cellulose for attic target
1	South Florida, Hawaii	R-30	R-13	R-13	12"	8.3"
2	Gulf Coast, South Texas	R-49	R-13	R-13	20"	13.6"
3	Southeast, Southern California	R-49	R-20	R-19	20"	13.6"
4	Mid-Atlantic, Pacific Northwest	R-60	R-20	R-25	24"	16.7"
5	Midwest, New England	R-60	R-20	R-30	24"	16.7"
6	Northern Midwest, Northern New England	R-60	R-21	R-30	24"	16.7"
7	Northern Minnesota, Maine	R-60	R-21	R-38	24"	16.7"
8	Alaska interior	R-60	R-21	R-38	24"	16.7"

Attic targets follow the 2021 IECC (R-30 zone 1, R-49 zones 2-3, R-60 zones 4-8). Walls are shown as cavity insulation; colder zones often also need continuous insulation outside the studs. Your town may have adopted a different code edition: check with the building department, and look up your county's zone on the DOE / IECC climate zone map.

Blown-in bags per 1,000 sq ft (depth in brackets)

Material	R-30	R-38	R-49	R-60
Blown fiberglass	16 (12.0")	20 (15.2")	26 (19.6")	31 (24.0")
Blown cellulose	50 (8.3")	64 (10.6")	82 (13.6")	100 (16.7")
Blown mineral wool	32 (9.7")	40 (12.3")	52 (15.8")	64 (19.4")

Bags = area × target R ÷ (R × sq ft one bag delivers): about 1,950 for a common big-box blown fiberglass bag (Owens Corning AttiCat chart), 600 for a 19 lb cellulose bag (GreenFiber chart) and 950 for blown mineral wool. Add 10% and always check the chart printed on your bag.

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Climate zone		Attic target	
Existing depth (in)		Existing R	
R to add		Inches to add	
Attic area (sq ft)		Bags (+10%)	