



BRANZ Appraised
Appraisal No. 1201 [2021]

**BIG WOOL
INSULATION**



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BRANZ Appraisals

Technical Assessments of products
for building and construction.



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Product

- 1.1 Big Wool Insulation is a blend of sheep's wool and polyester fibre used as a thermal insulation material for use in walls, ceilings and roofs of buildings.

Scope

- 2.1 Big Wool Insulation has been appraised as a thermal insulating material for framed or part-framed walls, ceilings and roofs of domestic and commercial buildings.

Building Regulations

New Zealand Building Code (NZBC)

- 3.1 In the opinion of BRANZ, Big Wool Insulation, if designed, used, installed and maintained in accordance with the statements and conditions of this Appraisal, will meet or contribute to meeting the following provisions of the NZBC:

Clause B2 DURABILITY: Performance B2.3.1 [a] not less than 50 years and B2.3.1 [b] 15 years. Big Wool Insulation meets these requirements. See Paragraphs 8.1 and 8.2.

Clause E3 INTERNAL MOISTURE: Performance E3.3.1. Big Wool Insulation contributes to meeting this requirement. See Paragraphs 12.1 and 12.2.

Clause F2 HAZARDOUS BUILDING MATERIALS: Performance F2.3.1. Big Wool Insulation meets this requirement.

Clause H1 ENERGY EFFICIENCY: Performance H1.3.1 [a] and H1.3.2 E. Big Wool Insulation contributes to meeting these requirements. See Paragraphs 14.1 and 14.2.

Technical Specification

Wool Blend Insulation

- 4.1 Big Wool Insulation is a thermally bonded mixture of coloured sheep's wool fibres sourced from manufacturers of woollen products, and thermally bonded polyester fibres. The wool and polyester fibres are blended, carded and thermally bonded to produce blankets, which are then slit to the required width, compressed and packaged. Big Wool Insulation is available as set out in Table 1.

Table 1: Big Wool Insulation product range

R-value	Nominal thickness [mm]	Width [mm]	Length [mm]	Density [kg/m ³]
2.2	90	580	6,890	23.4
3.2	180	870	6,900	12.4

- 4.2 Big Wool Insulation is grey in colour and is compression packed in clear polythene bags with labelling in compliance with AS/NZS 4859.1.
- 4.3 Accessories used with Big Wool Insulation, which are supplied by the insulation installer, are wire netting, plastic strapping and associated fixings.

Handling and Storage

- 5.1 Big Wool Insulation must be stored under cover and in dry conditions. Heavy objects must not be stacked on the packs. The packs must be stored in an orientation that avoids excessive compression of the product.
- 5.2 Compression packaged wool is subjected to a maximum combination of compression density and storage time after which the product may not loft to its nominal thickness and therefore may not achieve its designed thermal performance.
- 5.3 In general, insulation products are sensitive to the length of time they are stored under compression packaging. Product that does not recover to its nominal thickness may not achieve the stated thermal resistance [R-value].

Technical Literature

- 6.1 Refer to the Appraisals listing on the BRANZ website for details of the current Technical Literature for Big Wool Insulation. The Technical Literature must be read in conjunction with this Appraisal. All aspects of design, use, installation and maintenance contained in the Technical Literature and within the scope of this Appraisal must be followed.

Design Information

General

- 7.1 Big Wool Insulation is intended for use as thermal insulation to meet the requirements of the NZBC. Big Wool Insulation can be used to meet the minimum schedule method R-value of NZBC Verification Method H1/VM1 or NZBC Acceptable Solution H1/AS1. Greater construction R-values can be achieved where specific design is used. For construction R-values, refer to the BRANZ House Insulation Guide. Product R-values and dimensions are given in Table 1.
- 7.2 Big Wool Insulation R-values have been determined by testing to AS/NZS 4859.1.
- 7.3 Big Wool Insulation is designed to be friction-fitted between wall, ceiling or roof framing. It can also be laid directly over ceiling lining, over ceiling battens or joists/truss chords. In other horizontal situations, it must be adequately supported by galvanised wire netting or some other durable material.

- 7.4 Subject to the maximum compression density and storage conditions not being exceeded, all products covered by this Appraisal should recover to their nominal thickness within 72 hours after being removed from their compressed bales.
- 7.5 Where the insulation is installed in exterior walls, the insulation material nominal thickness must be selected to provide a snug close fit, which touches all sides of the insulation cavity between the wall underlay and the interior wall lining.
- 7.6 Where the insulation is installed with a drained cavity, it is recommended that specific wall products with a controlled nominal thickness be used. Where the stud spacings are greater than 450 mm, an intermediate means of restraining the insulation from bulging into the cavity must be installed in accordance with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Paragraph 9.1.8.5.
- 7.7 To prevent moisture transfer and to provide roof ventilation, a separation of 25 mm minimum is required between the insulation and any rigid substrate or flexible roof underlay.
- 7.8 The building envelope must be constructed to ensure the insulation remains dry during installation and throughout the life of the building.
- 7.9 The clearance requirements for heating appliances and downlights must be met and reference made to the manufacturers instructions and NZS 4246.

Durability

- 8.1 The durability assessment of Big Wool Insulation to meet the requirements of the NZBC is based on the difficulty of access and replacement, and the ability to detect failure of the insulation, both during normal use and maintenance of the building.

Serviceable Life

- 8.2 Where the building is maintained so that provisions of NZBC Clause E2 and E3 are met, and where the insulation is not crushed or exposed to conditions that will diminish its thermal performance [e.g. moisture], Big Wool Insulation is expected to have a serviceable life of at least 50 years.

Maintenance

- 9.1 Insulation that has become damp must be removed and the cause of dampness repaired. Cavities must be clean and dry before fitting new insulation of an equivalent thermal rating. NZS 4246 gives guidance on thermal insulation maintenance due to water damage.

Prevention of Fire Occurring

- 10.1 Separation or protection must be provided to Big Wool Insulation from heat sources such as fireplaces, heating appliances and chimneys. Part 7 of NZBC Verification Method C/VM1 and Acceptable Solution C/AS1, and NZBC Acceptable Solution C/AS2 provide methods for separation and protection of combustible materials from heat sources.

Downlights

- 10.2 Recessed luminaires shall be one of the specified luminaire types and installed in accordance with NZBC Verification Method C/VM1 and Acceptable Solution C/AS1, Section 7.4.
- 10.3 Insulation materials must maintain a clearance of 100 mm to undefined recessed luminaires.

Fire Affecting Areas Beyond the Fire Source

- 11.1 Big Wool Insulation has not been assessed for use in locations where a fire resistance rating [FRR] is required.

External Moisture

- 12.1 The total building envelope must be weathertight and comply with the requirements of NZBC Clause E2 to ensure that the insulation remains dry in use.
- 12.2 The moisture content of the construction materials at the time of enclosing the insulation must meet the requirements of NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Paragraph 10.2 a), or lower moisture content if required by the lining manufacturer.

Internal Moisture

- 13.1 Buildings must provide an adequate combination of thermal resistance, ventilation and space temperature to all habitable spaces, bathrooms, laundries and other spaces where moisture may be generated or may accumulate. This does not apply to Communal Non-residential, Commercial, Industrial Outbuildings or Ancillary buildings.
- 13.2 Roofs and walls of housing complying with the Schedule Method for Compliance with NZBC Clause H1.3.2 E will have adequate thermal resistance. Other buildings may require more thermal insulation to satisfy the requirements of NZBC Acceptable Solution E3/AS1 than that to satisfy the energy efficiency provisions alone.

Energy Efficiency

- 14.1 Big Wool Insulation will contribute to meeting the requirements of NZBC Clause H1, Performance H1.2.1 (a) and H1.3.2 E by compliance with NZBC Verification Method H1/VM1 or NZBC Acceptable Solution H1/AS1.
- 14.2 Big Wool Insulation R-values have been determined by BRANZ testing to AS/NZS 4859.1 and are given in Table 1.

Installation Information

Installation Skill Level Requirements

- 15.1 All design and building work must be carried out in accordance with Big Wool Insulation Technical Literature and this Appraisal. All building work must be undertaken by competent and experienced tradespersons conversant with Big Wool Insulation.

General

- 16.1 Installation of Big Wool Insulation must be in accordance with the Technical Literature and this Appraisal. NZS 4246 should be used as a guide for installing insulation in residential buildings.
- 16.2 Big Wool Insulation must be installed only when the building is enclosed and when the construction materials have achieved the required maximum moisture content or less.
- 16.3 Big Wool Insulation must be released from the packaging and allowed to re-loft prior to installation. The time to loft will depend upon the length of time the product has been packaged and stored.
- 16.4 Big Wool Insulation is supplied in roll from [see Table 1] to suit framing layouts. The product is able to be cut to suit wall cavities and when fitted between roof or ceiling framing. The insulation must be neatly friction-fitted between framing members so that the potential for gaps and convective heat loss is reduced. In wall cavities, the insulation must be neatly friction-fitted between framing members to prevent sagging. In ceiling or roofs, the insulation may be fitted between framing members and butted tightly. The insulation must extend to the external wall top plate. The insulation must not be folded or compressed. A close even fit provides the most efficient thermal performance. Whenever possible, the insulation should be fitted beneath wiring or plumbing.
- 16.5 The clearance requirements for heating appliances and downlights must be followed. Refer also to NZS 4246.

Inspections

- 16.6 The Technical Literature, this Appraisal and NZS 4246 must be referred to during the inspection of Big Wool Insulation installations.

Health and Safety

- 17.1 Refer to the Technical Literature and NZS 4246 for guidance on health and safety requirements such as personal protective clothing and installation hazard assessment.



Basis of Appraisal

The following is a summary of the technical investigations carried out:

Tests

- 18.1 BRANZ has carried out thermal resistance testing of Big Wool Insulation in accordance with AS/NZS 4859.1.

Other Investigations

- 19.1 An assessment of the durability of Big Wool Insulation has been made by BRANZ technical experts.
- 19.2 The manufacturer's Technical Literature has been reviewed by BRANZ and found to be satisfactory.
- 19.3 Site inspections have been undertaken by BRANZ to assess the practicability of installation.

Quality

- 20.1 The manufacture of Big Wool Insulation has been examined by BRANZ, including methods adopted for quality control. Details of the manufacturing processes, and quality and composition of the raw materials used were obtained and found to be satisfactory.
- 20.2 Textile Products 1971 Ltd is responsible for the quality of the product supplied.
- 20.3 Quality of installation of the product on-site is the responsibility of the installer.
- 20.4 Quality of maintenance of the building to ensure the insulation material remains dry is the responsibility of the building owner.

Sources of Information

- AS/NZS 4859.1:2002 Materials for the thermal insulation of buildings.
- NZS 4246:2016 Energy efficiency – Installing bulk thermal insulation in residential buildings.
- BRANZ House Insulation Guide, Fifth Edition 2014.
- BRANZ Bulletin Number 525 Preventing moisture problems in timber-framed skillion roofs.
- Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment Record of amendments – Acceptable Solutions, Verification Methods and handbooks.
- The Building Regulations 1992.



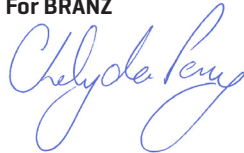
In the opinion of BRANZ, **Big Wool Insulation** is fit for purpose and will comply with the Building Code to the extent specified in this Appraisal provided it is used, designed, installed and maintained as set out in this Appraisal.

The Appraisal is issued only to **Textile Products 1971 Ltd**, and is valid until further notice, subject to the Conditions of Appraisal.

Conditions of Appraisal

1. This Appraisal:
 - a) relates only to the product as described herein;
 - b) must be read, considered and used in full together with the Technical Literature;
 - c) does not address any Legislation, Regulations, Codes or Standards, not specifically named herein;
 - d) is copyright of BRANZ.
2. **Textile Products 1971 Ltd:**
 - a) continues to have the product reviewed by BRANZ;
 - b) shall notify BRANZ of any changes in product specification or quality assurance measures prior to the product being marketed;
 - c) abides by the BRANZ Appraisals Services Terms and Conditions;
 - d) warrants that the product and the manufacturing process for the product are maintained at or above the standards, levels and quality assessed and found satisfactory by BRANZ pursuant to BRANZ's Appraisal of the product.
3. BRANZ makes no representation or warranty as to:
 - a) the nature of individual examples of, batches of, or individual installations of the product, including methods and workmanship;
 - b) the presence or absence of any patent or similar rights subsisting in the product or any other product;
 - c) any guarantee or warranty offered by **Textile Products 1971 Ltd**.
4. Any reference in this Appraisal to any other publication shall be read as a reference to the version of the publication specified in this Appraisal.
5. BRANZ provides no certification, guarantee, indemnity or warranty, to **Textile Products 1971 Ltd** or any third party.

For BRANZ



Chelydra Percy

Chief Executive

Date of Issue:

03 November 2021