



BRANZ Appraised

Appraisal No. 1011 [2026]

REALWOOL INSULATION

Appraisal No. 1011 [2026]

This Appraisal replaces BRANZ
Appraisal No. 1011 [2018]



BRANZ Appraisals

Technical Assessments of
products for building and
construction.



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Product

- 1.1 RealWool 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 RealWool 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, RealWool 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. RealWool Insulation meets these requirements. See Paragraphs 8.1 and 8.2.

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

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

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

Technical Specification

Wool Blend Insulation

4.1 RealWool 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. RealWool Insulation is available as set out in Table 1.

Table 1: RealWool Insulation product range

R-value	Nominal thickness [mm]	Width [mm]	Length [mm]	Area Density [kg/m ²]
Wall Roll Form				
2.2	90	360 or 560	various	2.1
2.4	90	360 or 560	various	3.1
Wall Pads				
3.6	140	360 or 560	1,160	3.3
Ceiling				
2.0	115	380 or 580 or 870	various	1.2
3.6	140	560 or 870	1,160	4.3
3.6	200	600 or 870	various	2.4

[Note: Customised widths additional to those listed above can be provided by Textile Products 1971 Ltd. These must be to the same R-value, thickness and density requirements as the products above.]

- 4.2 RealWool 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 RealWool Insulation, which are supplied by the insulation installer, are wire netting, plastic strapping and associated fixings.

Handling and Storage

- 5.1 RealWool 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 This Appraisal must be read in conjunction with:
- RealWool Datasheet, Version 2, dated 2 December 2025.
 - RealWool Installation Instructions, Version 2, dated 2 December 2025.
- 6.2 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 RealWool Insulation is intended for use as thermal insulation to meet the requirements of the NZBC. RealWool Insulation can be used to meet the requirements of the NZBC Verification Methods H1/VM1, H1/VM2, NZBC Acceptable Solutions H1/AS1 or H1/AS2. 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 RealWool Insulation R-values have been determined by testing to AS/NZS 4859.1.
- 7.3 RealWool Insulation is designed to be friction-fitted between wall, ceiling or roof framing. RealWool Insulation can also be laid directly over ceiling lining, over ceiling battens or joist/truss chords. In other horizontal situations, it must be adequately supported by galvanised wire netting or some other suitable durable material. RealWool Insulation Skillion Roof Pads Insulation is designed to be friction-fitted between rafters.
- 7.4 When insulation is double layered over new or existing insulation, the possibility of compression of the bottom layer must be avoided or reduction of R-values for the bottom layer of the formed system must be considered.
- 7.5 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.
- 7.6 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.
- 7.7 Where the insulation is retrofitted in external walls without a wall underlay, and with direct-fixed claddings, the insulation must be at least 20 mm thinner than the framing to allow a gap of at least 20 mm between the insulation and the wall cladding. Horizontal straps must be stapled into the sides of the wall studs at 300 mm centres maximum as support before the insulation is installed. Refer also to NZS 4246.
- 7.8 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.
- 7.9 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. Selecting specifically designed skillion roof insulation products with a controlled thickness can assist with this requirement when required.
- 7.10 The building envelope must be constructed to ensure the insulation remains dry during installation and throughout the life of the building.
- 7.11 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 RealWool 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 Clauses 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], RealWool Insulation can expect 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 RealWool Insulation from heat sources such as fireplaces, heating appliances and chimneys. NZBC Acceptable Solutions C/AS1 and C/AS2 provide methods for separation and protection of combustible materials from heat sources.

Downlights

- 10.2 Insulation should maintain 100 mm clearance from all undefined recessed luminaires, treating them as a heat source. For insulation to abut or cover recessed luminaires these must be clearly marked as being suitable for having insulation abutting or covering them and have been installed in accordance with NZBC Acceptable Solution G9/AS1.

Fire Affecting Areas Beyond the Fire Source

Control of Internal Fire and Smoke Spread

- 11.1 RealWool Insulation is untested and therefore considered combustible when used in ceilings or walls, the insulation including any surface lining product enclosing the insulation from an occupied space, must achieve the Group Number for internal surface finish requirements as specified in NZBC Acceptable Solutions C/AS1 and C/AS2.

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, 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 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 RealWool Insulation will contribute to meeting the requirements of NZBC Clause H1, Performance H1.3.1 (a) and H1.3.2 E by compliance with NZBC Verification Methods H1/VM1, H1/VM2, NZBC Acceptable Solutions H1/AS1 or H1/AS2. Refer to Paragraphs 7.1-7.7.
- 14.2 RealWool 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 RealWool Insulation Technical Literature and this Appraisal. All building work must be undertaken by competent and experienced tradespersons conversant with RealWool Insulation.

General

- 16.1 Installation of RealWool 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 RealWool 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 RealWool 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 RealWool Insulation is supplied in roll and pad 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 met and reference made to the manufacturers instructions and NZS 4246.

Inspections

- 16.6 The Technical Literature, this Appraisal and NZS 4246 must be referred to during the inspection of RealWool 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 RealWool Insulation in accordance with AS/NZS 4859.1.

Other Investigations

- 19.1 An assessment of the durability of RealWool 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.

Quality

- 20.1 The manufacture of RealWool 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 Limited 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 4859.1:2018 Thermal insulation materials for buildings.
- BRANZ House Insulation Guide [[Sixth Edition](#)].
- [BRANZ Bulletin Issue 610](#) Preventing moisture problems in timber-framed skillion roofs, dated June 2017.
- NZS 4246: 2016 Energy efficiency – Installing bulk thermal insulation in residential buildings.
- Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment Record of amendments – Acceptable Solutions, Verification Methods and handbooks.
- The Building Regulations 1992.



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12 May 2026

REALWOOL INSULATION



In the opinion of BRANZ, **RealWool 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

Claire Falck
Chief Executive
Date of Issue:
12 May 2026