

TECHNICAL ENERGY SOLUTIONS

The Power of Insulation

- Typical ROI: Less Than 6 Months
- Conserves Enormous Amounts of Energy
- Delivers Major Savings for the Life of a Facility
- Provides Immediate Reductions In Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Conserving Energy With Insulation

The most widely accepted benefits of insulation are energy savings and the resulting cost savings that can be realized. Energy is often the most costly component in managing a manufacturing facility and its processes. Reducing energy consumption reduces costs. Lowering costs is a continual objective within most companies. It may not be at the top of the list, but it certainly falls within the top ten corporate initiatives, along with improving safety, quality, shareholder value, and the environment.

With the high cost of energy and our country's dependency on foreign energy sources, energy conservation is a priority with many companies. However, insulation is not normally at the top of the list of solutions because it is not considered an exciting topic. The rate of return on investment (ROI) is certainly at the top of everyone's list of objectives. So properly designing, installing, and maintaining an insulation system should be, too. In many cases, the annual rate of return is more than 100 percent. Loss of energy can increase the temperature within a facility or area, putting additional stress on other equipment and reducing that equipment's performance and life expectancy.

Energy conservation with the use of mechanical insulation, whether it is a hot or cold application, is simply an opportunity that should not be overlooked. As one facility manager notes, of all the energy-saving technologies available, a properly insulated system can provide the best ROI. It just makes good business sense to look at insulation first. Said another way, it is an investment that may have few rivals from a return perspective. Conserving energy with mechanical insulation is a quick and simple way to save both energy and money.



Enhancing Employee Safety With Insulation

When was the last time you heard about mechanical insulation at a safety meeting? Protecting workers from contact with hot or cold surfaces should be a focus of any safety program. Another important safety focus should be protecting workers from excessive equipment or other workplace noise.

Insulation systems can be a vital component in applications related to life safety, such as applications for commercial kitchen ducts, return air plenums, protection of power and communication conduit trays, and other similar applications.

The role of mechanical insulation in providing a safe work environment is seldom considered. Far beyond the impact on a company's bottom line is the very direct impact on its employees' well-being. Can you think of a more important topic or better reason to think about insulation differently?



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Reducing Energy Costs With Insulation

Corrosion under insulation (CUI) is a major safety and cost concern. It raises the question: If insulation is correctly designed, installed, and maintained in a timely and effective manner, is it possible the CUI problem could be minimized or even eliminated? It is an interesting subject, and there are many points of view regarding CUI. Moisture is definitely the enemy. The old saying, “Pay now or pay later,” applies to insulation in this case. By not properly maintaining an insulation system, you could be creating bigger or more expensive problems. If you don’t change the way things are done, you can expect the same results you’ve always gotten.



WHY INSULATE?

CONSIDERATIONS HAVE NOT CHANGED, BUT PERHAPS

IMPORTANCE HAS. *Is your current insulation system designed for the 1950’s or for today?*

Reducing Emissions With Insulation

A reduction in energy consumption means less fossil fuel is being burned to produce energy. The result is a reduction in the amount of greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere. These gases have been directly linked to global warming and pollution. This benefit is not being considered in many applications. Why not? Many people do not relate the reduction of energy consumption to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. By reducing greenhouse gas emissions, you are increasing carbon credits. Reducing energy, reducing emissions, and increasing the availability of carbon credits: What a great win-win-win scenario.

Sustainable Design

Insulation can be a major component of employing sustainable design technology. Whether you are pursuing certification or just want to start thinking “green,” insulation systems—both individually or in combination with other building or equipment design options—can be vital to accomplishing your objectives. Environmental stewardship is not new, but it is no longer just an option. The economic case to build green is no longer the challenge it once was, and the potential of green buildings being mandated in many industry segments is real. Some evidence suggests that current planning, design, construction, and real estate practices contribute to patterns of resources consumption that seriously jeopardize the future of Earth’s population. The proper design, installation, and maintenance of mechanical insulation should be a major consideration in all sustainable design initiatives.



Condensation Control

Insulation systems are needed to maintain the surface temperature above the dew-point temperature of the ambient air. Condensation is a real-world problem that, if not corrected, can certainly lead to other real-world problems. If designed, installed, and maintained properly, insulation can eliminate the problem of condensation. The damage caused by condensation is often understated. It is a potential safety hazard; it can damage surrounding surfaces and equipment; and it can be the primary cause for sustaining mold growth, affecting indoor air quality. It can also be a major contributor to corrosion under insulation (CUI).



Realizing a Return and Reducing Life-Cycle Cost

Insulation is a technology that can provide unrivaled rates of return on investment (ROI) and improve life-cycle cost. Yet, despite the overwhelming proof, insulation is often not considered from an ROI perspective. It's not just about obtaining a return. After reviewing the significant rate of return possible, the more prudent question is: Why have we not looked at and implemented this technology in the past? Quantifying the rate of return is no longer a mystery; software and energy assessment procedures are proven and readily available. It has been estimated that a building's initial construction cost represents only 20 to 30 percent of the building's entire cost over its 30- to 40-year life. So the life-cycle cost of the total project deserves consideration, rather than focusing solely on the initial capital cost.



Improving Process Control and Productivity

Most processes involve fluid, air, or gas, and are designed to leave point A at one temperature or pressure and arrive at point B at another. The initial design incorporates a series of engineering assumptions. If the insulation system in the initial design is not installed and maintained, process control and productivity will suffer. A properly designed, installed, and maintained insulation system can provide the expected results. In many cases, it can even improve upon the results that are currently being realized.



Building a Better Work Environment

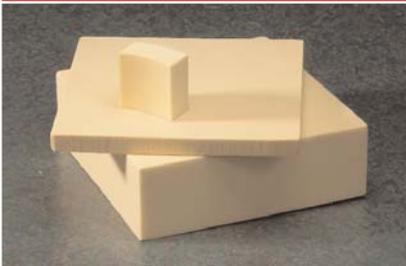
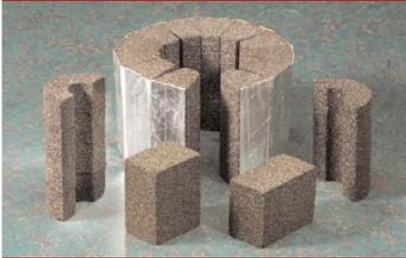
Study after study has proven that improved indoor air quality increases occupants' productivity and efficiency. Noise control—whether it is in an office or in a plant—can increase productivity. Improved air quality and sound attenuation both benefit an occupant's health, productivity, and overall job satisfaction. Insulation can play a major role in accomplishing these goals.





MECHANICAL INSULATION

Commercial and Industrial



The Power of Insulation

Thinking About Insulation Differently

Insulation is a proven means for conserving energy, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing process productivity, providing a safer and more productive work environment, controlling condensation (which can lead to mold growth), supporting sustainable design technology, and a host of other benefits. It does all of this while providing a return on investment (ROI) rate that is seldom rivaled. Yet, insulation is often overlooked and its benefits undervalued. Insulation is truly the lost or forgotten technology. Can you think of a more important time than now to think about insulation differently?

A Proven Technology, Taken for Granted

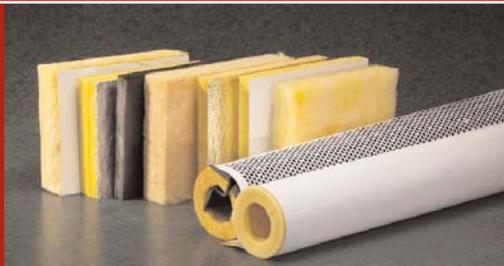
Discussing the benefits of insulation is not an exciting topic to many people. An insulation system has no moving parts, gauges, or computer chips; it is often hidden from view; and its benefits are taken for granted. This leads many to seek alternative energy-conservation solutions that they think are more exciting or offer what they see as more quantifiable results. But those assumptions could not be further from the truth. A properly designed, installed, and maintained insulation system can provide short- and long-term benefits that exceed expectations, and the results *are* quantifiable.

Insulation—An Engineered Approach

An insulation system is a technology—one that needs to be engineered into and maintained throughout the entire process. It has been estimated that between 10 and 30 percent of all insulation that has been installed is now missing or damaged. This practice of not replacing or maintaining an insulation system in a timely and correct manner has led to the full benefits of insulation not being realized. In many cases, significant other issues—such as excessive energy loss, corrosion under insulation (CUI), mold development, increased cost of operations, and reduced process productivity or efficiency—develop.

Return on Investment and More

The power of insulation—its return on investment (ROI)—is no longer a mystery. There are software and assessment programs available that can calculate the amount of energy being saved with existing insulation systems or lost if the insulation is missing or damaged. They can also determine the potential dollar savings that can be obtained by upgrading an insulation system or replacing what is missing. These programs calculate the number of pounds of greenhouse gas emissions that could be prevented from release into the atmosphere, insulation thicknesses required for condensation control, personnel protection, surface temperatures, and the estimated ROI. The benefits of insulation are easily quantifiable in a timely manner.



Resources

Insulation.org

A world of information devoted to the industrial and specialty insulation industry is available at www.insulation.org. No other source delivers so many resources for NIA members and industry. The site boasts the following features:

- A searchable database of technical articles
- The Manufacturers' Technical Literature (MTL) database
- Online registration for NIA's training classes, including the National Insulation Training Program (NITP), the Insulation Energy Appraisal Program (IEAP), and the 3E Plus[®] Insulation Software Training Seminar
- A database of NIA's Certified Insulation Energy Appraisers that is searchable by company name, last name, and location
- A Guide to Insulation Products Specifications
- Online registration for NIA meetings and events, such as Committee Days and the annual convention
- An online bookstore that offers the latest books, DVDs, videos, and software
- A free and easy subscription to the NIA *E-News Bulletin*, which provides updates on the most current association and industry news
- Industry and association news releases
- The online *NIA Membership Directory & Resource Guide*, which is searchable by member type, specialty, products, and location

Bookmark www.insulation.org and check it frequently for the latest NIA and industry news.

MTL Product Catalog

The MTL Product Catalog at Insulation.org is the only online library of technical literature for the insulation industry. This one-stop shop for product information is the best way to reach a large

audience of insulation end users, including specifiers, distributors, engineers, contractors, and more.

InsulationOutlook.com

The *Insulation Outlook* website is devoted to the needs of the magazine's readership of mechanical engineers, plant managers, specifiers, and other technical end-user professionals. In keeping with NIA's mission of increasing the demand for insulation by raising awareness among key decision makers, *Insulation Outlook* produces high-quality information to educate its audience of more than 10,000 subscribers. The website features a searchable articles database with a "Send This Article to a Friend" feature; a handy subscription-management area; an easy method of ordering back issues and reprints; a media kit and insertion order form for advertisers; information for prospective writers; and much more.

3E Plus[®] Software

The North American Insulation Manufacturers Association (NAIMA) developed the 3E Plus[®] software program, which eliminates the complexity of determining the appropriate insulation thickness. This program is being used by certified insulation energy appraisers as well as independent engineers, contractors, industrial process engineers, environmental managers, and others in the commercial and industrial construction industry. It is a tool for selecting the appropriate insulation thickness needed to reduce heat loss or gain, maintain process-control temperature, maintain a safe surface temperature for personnel protection, and control condensation. The program can also calculate the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions (CO₂, NO_x, and others) associated with each thickness. The program includes thermal conductivity curves from current ASTM Material Specifications for most insulations. Users have the option of inputting thermal data from other sources if desired. Visit www.pipeinsulation.org to download the free software, or send an e-mail to NAIMA at 3Eplus@naima.org.

About the National Insulation Association (NIA)

NIA is a not-for-profit trade association representing the contractors, distributors, laminators, fabricators, and manufacturers that provide thermal insulation, insulation accessories, and components to the commercial, mechanical, and industrial markets throughout the nation. Since 1953, the northern Virginia-based association has been the voice of the insulation industry and is dedicated to keeping the commercial and industrial insulation industry up to date on the latest industry trends and technologies.



About the NIA Foundation for Education, Training and Industry Advancement

The NIA Foundation for Education, Training, and Industry Advancement promotes the benefits of commercial and industrial insulation to end users, including specifiers, architects, energy managers, plant operators, building owners, facility managers, government agencies, and others. Its mission is to establish NIA as the recognized authority in the insulation industry, to increase industry professionalism, to provide educational tools and resources, and to increase awareness of the need for and benefits of insulation. The Foundation has developed training programs, a business presentation series, and many other educational tools and resources. For more information about NIA and the Foundation, please visit www.insulation.org. National Insulation Association | 12100 Sunset Hills Rd., Suite 330 | Reston, VA 20190 | 703-464-6422 | fax 703-464-5896

About the International Union

The International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Allied Workers (HFIAW) is over 100 years old. Established in 1903, its members have worked to conserve energy and help reduce the release of greenhouse gasses into the atmosphere. The International Union has 86 Local Unions in the United States and 9 Local Unions in Canada, with approximately 25,000 highly skilled workers who work for 1,200 signatory contractors. All the members in the United States have completed an extensive Apprentice Training Program that includes up-to-date Health & Safety Training and is certified by the Bureau of Apprentice Training and the U.S Department of Labor. The International Union's signatory contractors, and its members whom they employ, perform work in nuclear and coal-burning powerhouses, refineries, steel mills, water treatment facilities, factories, auto plants, airports, office buildings, schools, and hospitals, to name a few. For more information about HFIAW, visit www.insulators.org. International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Allied Workers (HFIAW) | 9602 M. L. King Jr. Hwy. | Lanham, MD 20706 | 301-731-9101 | fax 301-731-5058

