

Insulation Materials Specification Guide from the NIA National Insulation Training Program

This chart provides the reader with material properties as typically specified in ASTM material specifications and is a guide to performance characteristics, but may not be sufficient for writing specifications.

Physical Properties ^{1, 4, 5, 6, 7}	Elastomeric Tube and Sheet	Elastomeric Tube and Sheet – High Temp	Elastomeric Tube and Sheet – Halogen Free	Cellular Glass Block	Cellular Glass Pipe	Polystyrene Board	Polystyrene Pipe	Polyiso-cyanurate	Phenolic Foam Unfaced	Melamine Foam	Polyolefin Sheet and Tube	Polyimide Foam	Polyimide Foam	Polyimide Rigid Cellular	Mineral Fiber Pipe	Mineral Fiber Pipe	Mineral Fiber Pipe	Mineral Fiber Blanket	Mineral Fiber Blanket	Mineral Fiber Blanket	Mineral Fiber Blanket	Mineral Fiber Mesh Blanket	Mineral Fiber Board	Mineral Fiber Board	Mineral Fiber Board	Mineral Fiber Board	Calcium Silicate Pipe and Block	Expanded Perlite Pipe & Block	Physical Properties ^{1, 4, 5, 6, 7}
Type of Material	Cellular	Cellular	Cellular	Cellular	Cellular	Cellular	Cellular	Cellular	Cellular	Cellular	Cellular	Cellular	Cellular	Cellular	Fibrous	Fibrous	Fibrous	Fibrous	Fibrous	Fibrous	Fibrous	Fibrous	Fibrous	Fibrous	Fibrous	Fibrous	Granular	Granular	Type of Material
ASTM Standard	C534 Grade I	C534 Grade II	C534 Grade III	C552 Type I	C552 Type II	C578 Type I – XII	C578 Type XIII	C591	C1126 Type III	C1410	C1427	C1482 Type I	C1482 Type VI	C1594 Type II	C547 Type I	C547 Type II – III & V	C547 Type IV	C553 Type I & II	C553 Type IV	C553 Type V & VI	C553 Type VII	C592 Class I & II	C612 Type IA – III	C612 Type IV A&B	C612 Type V	C533 Type I	C610	ASTM Standard	
Temp (°F) - Max.	220	350	250	800	800	165	165	300	257	350	200	400	572	600	850	1200 or 1400 (V)	1000	450	850	1000	1200	850 or 1200	450 – 1000	1200	1800	1200	1200	Temp (°F) - Max.	
Temp (°F) - Min.	-297	-297	-297	-450	-450	-65	-297	-297	-290	-40	-150	-328	-328	-423	0	0	0	-20	-20	-20	0	0	0	0	80	80	80	Temp (°F) - Min.	
Apparent Thermal Conductivity Max. (Btu-in/h ft ² F) at Mean Temperatures of:	(C518 & C177)	(C518 & C177)	(C518 & C177)	(C518 & C177)	(C335)	(C518 & C177)	(C518 & C177)	(C518 & C177)	(C518 & C177)	(C518)	(C518)	(C518)	(C518)	(C518 & C177)	(C335)	(C335)	(C335)	(C518)	(C518)	(C518)	(C518)	(C518 & C177)	(C518 & C177)	(C518 & C177)	(C518 & C177)	(C518 & C177)	(C335)	(C518 & C177)	Apparent Thermal Conductivity Max. (Btu-in/h ft ² F) at Mean Temperatures of:
-100°F	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.22	Not Stated	N/A ³	0.181	0.17 – 0.19	0.15	N/A ³	0.29	0.21	0.21	0.066	N/A ³	N/A ³	N/A ³	N/A ³	N/A ³	N/A ³	N/A ³	N/A ³	N/A ³	N/A ³	N/A ³	N/A ³	N/A ³	N/A ³	-100°F
0°F	0.264	0.264	0.264	0.27	Not Stated	N/A ³	0.221	0.18 – 0.20	0.15	N/A ³	0.33	0.27	0.28	0.138	N/A ³	N/A ³	N/A ³	N/A ³	N/A ³	N/A ³	N/A ³	N/A ³	N/A ³	N/A ³	N/A ³	N/A ³	N/A ³	N/A ³	0°F
75°F	0.28	0.30	0.28	0.31	Not Stated	0.20 – 0.32	0.259	0.18 – 0.20	0.15	0.30	0.35	0.32	0.34	0.246	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.31	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.24 – 0.25	N/A ³	N/A ³	N/A ³	75°F	
200°F	N/A ³	0.38	0.31	0.40	0.46	N/A ³	N/A ³	0.24 – 0.28	Not Stated	0.41	N/A ³	0.51	0.50	0.396	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.44	0.34	0.36	0.34	0.34	0.35	0.30 – 0.34	0.35	0.45	0.55	200°F	
400 °F	N/A ³	N/A ³	N/A ³	0.58	0.69	N/A ³	N/A ³	N/A ³	N/A ³	N/A ³	N/A ³	0.82	0.82	0.648	0.51	0.45	0.45	Not Stated	0.56	0.60	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.42 – 0.55	0.52	0.55	0.66	400 °F	
600°F	N/A ³	N/A ³	N/A ³	N/A	N/A	N/A ³	N/A ³	N/A ³	N/A ³	N/A ³	N/A ³	N/A ³	N/A ³	Not Stated	0.64	0.65	0.65	Not Stated	Not Stated	1.05	0.89	0.75	0.70	0.63	0.72	0.66	0.80	600°F	
Compressive Resistance (psi) (C165/C1621) - Min.	N/A	N/A	N/A	60 @ failure	N/A	5 – 100 @ 10%	20 @ 10%	16 – 125 @ 10%	18 @ 13%	N/A	N/A	0.5 @ 25%	0.5 @ 25%	Not Stated	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Not Stated	N/A	0.083 – 0.174 @ 10%	0.347 @ 10%	0.049 @ 10%	100 @ 5%	60 @ 5%	Compressive Resistance (psi) (C165/C1621) - Min.	
Density (lbs/ft ³)	Not Stated	Not Stated	Not Stated	6.1 – 8.6	6.1 – 8.6	0.7 – 3.0	1.6	1.8 – 6.0	2 min	0.6 – 0.8	2.5 max	0.48 max	0.50 max	3.0 max	3 – 6	6 – 8	3 – 6	Not Stated	Not Stated	Not Stated	Not Stated	10 – 12 max	Not Stated	Not Stated	Not Stated	15 max	10 – 14	Density (lbs/ft ³)	
Linear Change at Max Temp (C356 / D2126)	7% (C 356)	7% (C 356)	7% (C 356)	Not Stated	Not Stated	2% max (D 2126)	2% max (D 2126)	2% max (D 2126)	2% max (D 2126)	5% max (C 356)	7% max (C 356)	Not Stated	Not Stated	Not Stated	2% max (C 356)	2% max (C 356)	2% max (C 356)	Not Stated	Not Stated	Not Stated	Not Stated	2% max (C 356)	2% max (C 356)	2% max (C 356)	4% max (C 356)	2% (C 356)	2 – 8% max (C 356)	Linear Change at Max Temp (C356 / D2126)	
Min. Flexural Strength (psi) Min. (C203)	Not Stated	Not Stated	Not Stated	Not Stated	Not Stated	10 – 100	N/A	Not Stated	Not Stated	N/A	N/A	Not Stated	Not Stated	Not Stated	Not Stated	Not Stated	Not Stated	Not Stated	Not Stated	Not Stated	Not Stated	Not Stated	Not Stated	Not Stated	Not Stated	Not Stated	50	45	Min. Flexural Strength (psi) Min. (C203)
pH	Not Stated	Not Stated	Not Stated	7 – 8	7 – 8	Not Stated	Not Stated	Not Stated	Not Stated	Not Stated	6 – 8	Not Stated	Not Stated	Not Stated	8 – 9.5	8 – 9.5	8 – 9.5	8 – 9.5	8 – 9.5	8 – 9.5	8 – 9.5	8 – 9.5	8 – 10	8 – 10	8 – 10	9 – 11.5	9 – 11	pH	
Behavior in a Vertical Tube Furnace (ASTM E136)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	P	Behavior in a Vertical Tube Furnace (ASTM E136)
Surface Burning Characteristics Max (E84) ⁹	25/50 ²	Not stated	Not stated	5/0	5/0	Not Stated	Not Stated	25/50 ²	25/50 ²	25/50 ²	25/50 ²	10/15 ²	10/15 ²	10/15	25/50	25/50	25/50	25/50	25/50	25/50	25/50	25/50	25/50	25/50	25/50	25/50	0/0	0/5	Surface Burning Characteristics Max (E84) ⁹
Water Vapor Permeability (Perm in) Max (E96) Procedure A or B	0.10 A	0.10 A	0.10 A	0.005 B	0.005 B	1.1 – 5.0 A	1.5 A	2.0 – 4.0 A	0.9 A	Not Stated	0.05 A	Not Stated	Not Stated	8 B	Not Stated	Not Stated	Not Stated	Not Stated	Not Stated	Not Stated	Not Stated	Not Stated	Not Stated	Not Stated	Not Stated	Not Stated	Not Stated	Not Stated	Water Vapor Permeability (Perm in) Max (E96) Procedure A or B

Notes:

1. All properties are for the generic material type and will vary by grade and by manufacturer. All properties should be verified with individual manufacturers. Properties that are not stated may or may not be an indication that a material is not appropriate for applications depending on that property. This should be verified with the specific manufacturer.
2. Surface burning characteristics may vary with thickness; verify results for type and thickness with the manufacturer.
3. When a property is out of the specified usage range it is shown by N/A³. Properties that are not listed or stated are so shown.
4. All properties listed above are for the core insulation material only and may not be indicative of the performance of an insulation system including vapor retarders, adhesives and sealants.
5. Many materials can be used for applications outside of the ranges listed above but additional precautions must be followed. The specific manufacturer should be consulted for detailed recommendations.
6. Some values such as specific thermal conductivities at various mean temperatures may be interpolated.
7. This chart has been established for products with current ASTM standards.
8. Data found in this chart is generally derived from ASTM Standards. Some exceptions were made to provide more complete information on materials for better comparison purposes. In those cases, the information was derived by consensus of manufacturers and the NIA TIC Committee approval.
9. For guidance on Surface Burning Characteristics testing of products used in Canada, refer to the appropriate ASTM product specification for requirements or use CAN/ULC-S102, Standard Method of Test for Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials and Assemblies.
10. In ASTM E96, Procedure A is the dry cup method and Procedure B is the wet cup method.



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