



Cellulose Insulation and Heat Generating Devices

In 1979, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) issued a requirement in 16 C.F.R. 1404 which reads in part “Keep cellulose insulation at least three inches away from the sides of recessed light fixtures. Do not place insulation over such fixtures so as to entrap heat. Also keep this insulation away from exhaust flues of furnaces, water heater, space heaters or other heat generating devices”. Consult with your local code inspector / official in regards to acceptable framing materials to avoid contact and maintain the required separation distance.

Recessed Lights

The only recessed lights than can be safely covered with any thermal insulation are “IC” (insulation contact) rated fixtures. They will have a label that says “IC Rated”. Do not over lamp any light fixture with a bulb wattage greater than the fixtures rated wattage. The fixture manufacturer recommendations must be followed to achieve safe operation.

Be smart and evaluate the role you want building materials to play in giving your family members the appropriate home environment. If you would like copies of the referenced studies, we would be pleased to provide them. Should you like for us to meet with any local building or fire officials, we’d be pleased to do so.



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