



RVI

High Performance
Building Experts

Is Spray Foam the Right Choice?

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ARE THERE ANY CHALLENGES WITH SPRAY FOAM INSULATION?

The short answer? Yes! There are four main problems with choosing spray foam insulation:

1. Climate

The extreme temperature shifts in the Midwest pose challenging conditions for spray foam. Its performance can be compromised if not installed in ideal conditions, leading to inefficiency in insulation and increased risk to your health,

2. Environment

Spray foam demands a perfect installation environment – a dry, warm substrate. Failure to meet these conditions can result in improper adhesion, leading to gaps and eventual durability concerns. These gaps can foster moisture issues, significantly reducing the insulation's effectiveness

3. Installation

Achieving a uniform thickness with spray foam is crucial for maintaining its R-value. Variances in product depth can substantially lower its insulating capabilities, presenting a considerable drawback.

4. Health Risks

The production of spray foam involves non-renewable crude oil derivatives, including polyurethane which contains isocyanates—substances known for their irritant properties. While proper gear can mitigate installation risks, any future disturbance can release irritants, posing health concerns.

WHERE SHOULD YOU NOT USE SPRAY FOAM?

Broadly speaking, it's advisable to use spray foam sparingly. Despite common misconceptions, places like roof decks, walls, floors, and sound attenuation are better off without it. At RVI, we recommend its limited use, specifically in areas like rim joists for targeted applications.



IS SPRAY FOAM INSULATION WORTH IT?

Nope! While its R-value per inch may initially seem advantageous, a comprehensive approach to insulation and sealing is necessary for a high-performance, safe, and durable home. Spray foam alone fails to cover essential details that contribute to overall home efficiency.

When considering the long-term return on investment, alternatives like BBS outperform spray foam.



SAM HARTMANN

Leader - RVI

Trust RVI to guide you towards making your home not only energy-efficient but also a healthier living environment.