

SPOTLIGHT ON...

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SPOTLIGHT ON...

jablite
INSULATION

BUILDING A FUTURE WITH JABLITE EPS

The Code for Sustainable Homes (CSH) has enforced high environmental performance criteria on new-build homes, which will act as an exemplar towards 'greening' Britain's future housing stock. Jablite expanded polystyrene (EPS) presents many options in meeting these new requirements.

Despite the progress that is being made in the development of micro-generation technologies suitable for residential use, the effectiveness of more straightforward methods of improving a building's performance should not be overlooked. For example, insulation in the form of expanded polystyrene (EPS) has been used for many decades within floors, walls and roofs and has a proven track record in cost-effectively achieving the latest thermal performance requirements, without having to change existing build practices.

The Challenge

All new-build homes, including those in the public and private sector, are now required to achieve a minimum Code rating. As a result, this is placing a huge impetus on housing providers to ensure sustainability is at the top of their agenda. There is expected to be continued focus on creating sustainable homes following the Government's renewed commitment to its social housing build plans. Against this background, many builders and designers are looking at ways of achieving the new thermal performance requirements without having to change existing build practice. One of the most effective ways of achieving this is to ensure that they are built using high performance insulation.

Insulation is important because, even with the most advanced micro-generation technology, a poorly insulated home would have difficulty in achieving the required energy efficiency and



carbon emission targets. These emissions are currently responsible for around a quarter of all carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere and if the zero-carbon homes target by 2016 is to become a reality, practical and sustainable measures need to be implemented – and choice of insulation is a fundamental part of this.



Jablite EPS and sustainability

In the latest edition of the Green Guide to Specification, the BRE awarded EPS an A+ rating. The Green Guide to Specification provides information for architects, designers, contractors and their clients on the relative environmental impacts of over 1200 building specifications across all main building elements and types. Materials selection for the CSH and BREEAM assessment method is informed by the Green Guide to Specification. In effect, the Guide recommends the selection of environmentally sustainable materials and specifications and increasingly the industry is using it as the definitive information source on the subject. Achieving the highest rating in the guide has greatly enhanced many people's perceptions of expanded polystyrene as an insulation material.

The Green Guide assigned an 'A'+ rating to EPS after comparing common thermal resistance of different insulation materials to enable a fair comparison. Materials were ranked both on the basis that the benefit of using any of the insulations listed in the guide will outweigh the embodied environmental impact of their manufacture, installation and end of life disposal over the life cycle. Expanded polystyrene was also rated highly due to its low environmental impact - it has an Ozone Depletion Potential (ODP) of zero and a low Global Warming Potential (GWP), which is exemplary. It is also free from HCFCs, completely inert and because it is 100% recyclable, it can be ground and re-used in a whole range of other products.

As the energy performance requirements of buildings become more stringent, decisions relating to insulation choice for roofs, walls and floors are proving vital to the overall energy efficiency and carbon footprint. EPS as a material provides several advantages in that it is inert and unaffected by moisture, as well as offering excellent lifetime thermal performance. It is therefore providing a highly effective solution as part of a shift to a more sustainable built environment.



Jablite offers the ideal solution - being a high performance insulation material that can be used in roof, wall and floor constructions.

Newly launched low lambda Jablite Premium insulation offers 20% improved thermal performance, making it an excellent insulator that can meet latest Code level requirements. Crucially, it enables builders and designers to retain the same room sizes as well as required housing densities because it helps meet the requirements, for example, within standard wall constructions. Unlike other insulation materials, Jablite EPS is completely inert, 100% recyclable and lasts the lifetime of a building.

According to the Energy Saving Trust, if a roof is poorly insulated it can account for around a quarter of heat loss in a home. The benefit of using Jablite on flat roofs is that it can be manufactured to any thickness from 20mm upwards, which means that the boards can be quickly and easily installed in one single layer and contractors avoid having to join multi layers on site, which can often be time consuming and expensive.

Jablite insulation can equally be used in a pitched roof construction to again provide excellent lifetime thermal performance. Within this element of the build, it has been used to develop innovative new products such as the Jabroof SlimFix insulated structural pitched-roof system. This method of constructing a tiled or slated pitched roof offers structural support and, at the same time, satisfies the Building Regulations' U-value requirements. This system enables room-in-the-roof construction which creates extra living space without increasing the footprint.

When it comes to insulating walls, Jablite low lambda Jabfill Premium is a full-fill cavity-wall system designed to be incorporated into new masonry walls during construction to satisfy the Building Regulations U-value requirements. The boards have a fluted face, tongued and grooved edge profile and a chamfered lower edge detail which is fully interlocking when in place. The insulation fills the cavity and does not require special clips or wall ties. This high performance product is easily identifiable on site with coloured grey and orange EPS to give it a distinctive appearance.

Jablite EPS can be used throughout the building, which means that as well as roofs and walls it is commonly used for all types of floor applications. It can be used above or below the concrete slab and it can be used in other floor construction systems such as beam and block, suspended floors, hollow core plank and be incorporated within underfloor heating systems.

JABLITE INSULATION TECHNICAL MANUAL LAUNCHED

Jablite has launched one of the most comprehensive guides to expanded polystyrene (EPS) insulation ever produced - The Jablite Insulation Technical Manual

Aimed specifically at architects, specifiers and contractors, the 200 page technical manual has been designed to demonstrate how to achieve the increasingly low U-values required for new and refurbished buildings. With the ever more stringent requirements of Building Regulations and the need to meet higher Code levels on the path to zero carbon, the technical manual will prove invaluable in helping builders and designers to meet current and future building requirements.

The document contains detailed information on how Jablite insulation can be used within walls, roofs and floors. Each application is supported by U-value tables, along with drawings giving the correct installation method to suit that construction type - in fact everything a building designer needs to know to create a well insulated building. In addition, each application is detailed in easy-to-reference sections, making even the most technical information accessible and easy to understand.

Richard Lee, Sales Director for Vencel Resil, manufacturers of Jablite, explains: "The technical manual is an invaluable resource for architects, specifiers and contractors in helping them to make an informed choice.



Jablite has long been renowned for its durability, thermal performance and sustainability and the manual clearly sets out the benefits of the brand and how it can meet the needs of buildings now and in the future."

For more information or to order a copy of the new Jablite Insulation Technical Manual, visit the website www.jablite.co.uk/manual or email marketing@vencel.co.uk.

ABOUT SIG INSULATIONS

SIG Insulations is the UK's market leading specialist distributor of insulation, dry lining and related products to construction and industry, comprising 21 companies and serving a wide range of industries and specialist markets.

Our businesses are engaged in the following areas, offering customers a service that fully integrates products, solutions and technical support.

- Insulation materials for thermal, acoustic and fire protection
- Timber frame insulation
- High temperature insulation
- Dry lining and plasterboards
- Fire protection boards
- House building materials
- Sustainable/renewal technologies
- Building products
- Industrial insulation
- Plumbing, heating and ventilating
- Marine and power

- Oil and gas processing
- Chemical and pharmaceutical
- Food chain process and manufacture
- Cold storage
- Asbestos removal
- Specialist cladding
- Specialist fabrication
- Chimneys, dormers & canopies
- Engineering maintenance
- Tools and ancillaries

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