



# Foam Insulation: California's New Insulation of Choice

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BY GARY TALBOTT

With the current housing boom, more and more people are flooding into the Golden State. What this means is that demand on the state's limited energy resources is not getting any less. Power shortages will become as natural an event as the heat itself, and energy bills will skyrocket.

One of the biggest ways to reduce such demand is to build houses that require less energy to heat and especially cool. As you may well know, insulation (if chosen carefully) has a tremendous impact on energy demand.

The new Title 24 Energy Regulations that take effect in October of this year will force builders to seek better ways to insulate. The standard fiberglass batts will not pass the new code changes! In the last several years, spray-applied soy-based foam has become the emerging environmentally responsible technology in the insulation arena. With its farm grown content and ability to form a complete seal, soy foam is emerging as an insulation of choice.

Initially starting off as a liquid, upon application the insulation expands to 100 times its original size, thus conforming to any shape or size space, even the smallest crevice. This, in effect creates a water and airtight seal, eliminating mold and mildew growth, reducing outside noise, and effectively eliminating outside dust and allergens. And, most importantly, the tight seal maintains temperatures more evenly, thereby greatly reducing utility bills (by as much as 50%) and the need for sizable heating and air systems.

As stated before, such insulation is also environmentally friendly, both in its make-up and means of application. Since the insulation uses soybean oil (a renewable resource) as its base, the demand for non-renewable resources such as oil and natural gas drops dramatically. It also contains no formaldehyde and significantly less petroleum content than other foam insulations. It is a water-blown foam, containing no harmful propellants such as CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons) or HCFCs (hydrochloroflourocarbons) that are believed to be harmful to the ozone layer.

Now that the changes in the Title 24 devalue standard fiberglass applications, spray-applied soy foam insulation's custom fit system is going to the head of the pack. Yes, there are some other types of custom insulation applications, but none come close to having the complete environmentally responsible technology that soy foam has!



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