

# "Insulate with Integrity" – Frequently Asked Questions

### • What is the difference between SPF and fiberglass insulation?

SPF insulation is a manufactured-on-site form of building insulation that typically is composed of two chemical components which, when combined in prescribed ratios by a properly trained and protected installer, can be an effective insulator. However, the manufacturing process is not monitored, and ratios can go wrong. Fiberglass insulation – which is safe and easy to install, and is manufactured in a controlled environment – is made by melting sand and recycled glass together. It usually comes in a blanket (long roll) or batts (pre-cut rectangles), though loose fiberglass insulation can be blown into a cavity.

#### Is fiberglass insulation safe?

Fiberglass insulation is among the most studied home building materials and does not cause health concerns for installers, other on-site workers or homeowners. There is no risk of chemical exposure, and minimal protective gear is needed for installer safety. In fact, no one is required to leave or stay away from the job site during installation of Owens Corning<sup>™</sup> products. Unlike fiberglass insulation, SPF is a relatively unknown insulation option that needs further research before its health effects can be confirmed.

#### · What exactly are the dangers of SPF?

SPF creates the potential for moisture build-up, a common cause of wood-based building failures, and has caused fires and explosions. SPF uses harmful chemicals with proven adverse health effects and is alleged to cause homeowner illnesses.

## • What are the negative health effects of SPF?

Chemicals used to make SPF can cause a variety of health issues for those exposed during the construction process – including headaches, nausea and/or asthma. Exposure also can cause severe isocyanate sensitivity – a debilitating condition that may severely restrict occupational and dwelling options for the afflicted<sup>1</sup>.

 What sources, research and data support your claims about these dangers? How can you prove that SPF is dangerous?

Multiple agencies and organizations, including OSHA, NIOSH and the EPA, have voiced concerns about SPF<sup>2</sup>. More information can be found in our brochure, available for download at InsulateWithIntegrity.com.

#### • If it is dangerous, why are people using SPF? Who is approving its use?

SPF is a relatively recent insulation introduction and, when installed properly by a trained and protected installer, can be an effective insulator. However, a number of third parties have expressed concerns about the performance, safety, reliability and sustainability of SPF.

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