Master Wall Inc.®
Building a Culture of Excellence

Technical Bulletin

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Topic: Insulation Thickness

Foam plastic insulation boards of several varieties are used as part of the Master Wall Aggre-flex Systems, QRW1 EIFS and sometimes under Portland cement stucco. The insulations are available in several thicknesses; however, building codes may limit how much insulation may be used on a project.

Most codes limit the maximum combustible content of insulation to 6000 Btu per square foot of insulation. As a general rule, this corresponds to the following maximum thickness:

- Aggre-flex Insulation (1.0 pcf): 4" maximum thickness
- QRW1 (Polyisocyanurate) Insulation: 2" maximum thickness
- Extruded Polystyrene Insulation: 2" maximum thickness

Can thicker insulation be used? Designers often incorporate thicker insulation into a building, which may exceed these maximums. During the design process they should consult with the local jurisdictional building authority to determine the local building requirements. Some building officials may choose to average the overall insulation thickness, while others strictly adhere to the code-mandated maximum. Thicker insulation is not a warranty issue, but one of code compliance.

If allowed, thicker insulation boards and decorative foam trim pieces may be heavy. For these thicker pieces, some form of temporary or permanent fastening device is often required while the adhesive cures. Wind-Lock (www.wind-lock.com) has Long-Lock fasteners ranging from 4-1/2" to 14" thick designed specifically for this purpose. Consult with Technical Services for project-specific recommendations.

In summary, Master Wall will warrant projects using thicker insulation, but the designer should seek approval from the local building official.