



Black Acoustical Board

Knauf Insulation Black Acoustical Board is a heavy density board insulation. The base board is brown with a black nonwoven facer.

The product has excellent sound absorption characteristics and is interior friendly as it is produced with ECOSE® Technology. Knauf Insulation is the only manufacturer with a full line of formaldehyde-free fiberglass board products.



Performance dashboard

Features & functionality

Provides acoustical and thermal insulation to walls and ceilings of theaters, auditoriums, office spaces, etc.

Significantly reduces noise through outstanding sound absorption

Black board is aesthetically pleasing and can be used as a visual barrier.

Visit Knauf for more product information
[Black Acoustical Board](#)

Environment & materials

Improved by:

Utilization of recycled glass

Knauf's original bio-based ECOSE® binder technology

Optimized compression packaging

Certification & rating systems:

Declare, Red List Free

UL GREENGUARD Gold certified

UL Validated recycled content

UL Validated formaldehyde-free

Audited, European Certification Board for Mineral Wool Products exoneration process

ASTM C612; Type IA and Type IB

MasterFormat® 07 21 13
Black Acoustical Smooth Board Guide Spec, Technical Data Sheet
For spec help, contact us or call 317 421 8727

[See LCA, interpretation & rating systems](#)

[See materials, interpretation & rating systems](#)



SM Transparency Report (EPD)™ + Material Health Overview™

EPD LCA

3rd-party verified

Transparency Report (EPD)

3rd-party verified

Validity: 12/12/23 – 12/12/28
KNA – 12122023 – 007

MATERIAL HEALTH Material evaluation

Self-declared

This environmental product declaration (EPD) was externally verified by **Harmony Environmental, LLC**, according to **ISO 21930:2017; UL Part A; UL Part B for Building Envelope Thermal Insulation Products; and ISO 14025:2006.**

Harmony Environmental, LLC
16362 W. Briarwood Ct.
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www.harmonyenviro.com
(913) 780-3328



SUMMARY

Reference PCR

UL Part B: Building Envelope Thermal Insulation v2.0

Regions; system boundaries

North America; Cradle-to-grave

Functional unit / ESL:

1 m² installed insulation material, packaging included, with thickness that gives average thermal resistance of R_{SI} = 1m²·K/W over an estimated service life (ESL) of 75 years

LCIA methodology: TRACI 2.1

LCA software; LCI database

LCA for Experts v10.7; LCA for Experts 2023

In accordance with ISO 14044 and the reference PCR, this life cycle assessment was conducted by Sustainable Minds and verified by Harmony Environmental, LLC.

Public LCA:

Knauf Insulation North America and Manson Insulation Products

Knauf Insulation, Inc.

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Shelbyville, IN 46176
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317 398 4434

[Contact us](#)

LCA results & interpretation

Black Acoustical Board

Shelbyville, IN

Material health

Scope and summary

Cradle to gate Cradle to gate with options Cradle to grave

Application

Black Acoustical Board is designed for use as acoustical insulation and/or a visual barrier on walls and ceilings, where system design requires a rigid product and where additional strength and abuse resistance are required. The black surface provides a visual barrier with an aesthetic appearance, in both wall and ceiling applications.

Functional unit

One square meter of installed insulation material, packaging included, with a thickness that gives an average thermal resistance of $R_{eq} = 1m^2 \cdot K/W$ with a building service life of 75 years.

Reference service life: 75 years when installed per manufacturer's instructions
Reference flow: 1.65 kg of product, at a thickness of 0.0325 m to achieve the functional unit. (ASTM C518)

Manufacturing data

Reporting period: January 2022 – December 2022
Location: Shelbyville, IN

Default installation, packaging, and disposal scenarios

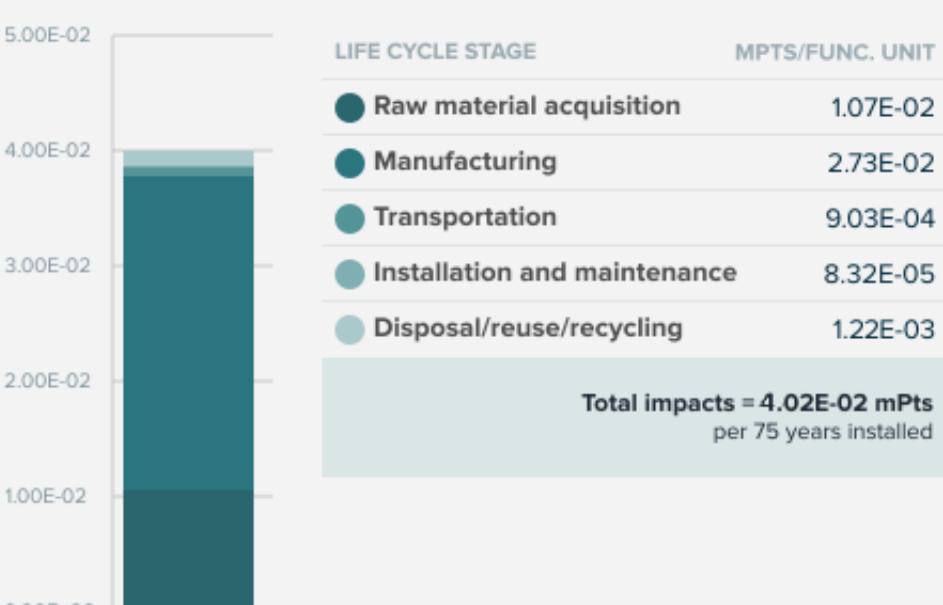
At the installation site, insulation products are unpackaged and installed. Staples may be used to install board products. The potential impact of the staples is assumed to be negligible since their use is spread out over hundreds of pieces; therefore, they were not included in the model.

No material is assumed to be lost or wasted. Scraps are typically used to fill corners or crevices. Plastic packaging waste is disposed (9% to recycling, 68% to landfill, and 17% to incineration), paper-based packaging waste is disposed (68% to recycling, 20% to landfill, and 5% to incineration), and no maintenance or replacement is required over the life of the building. After removal, the insulation is assumed to be landfilled. Insulation and packaging waste are assumed to be transported 100 miles for disposal.

Material composition greater than 1% by weight

PART	MATERIAL	%WT.
Batch	Cullet	30-35%
Batch	Sand	5-8%
Batch	Borates	2-5%
Batch	Soda ash	2-5%
Batch	Feldspar	1-2%
Batch	Limestone	1-2%
Batch	Oxides	<1%
Binder	Water	20-25%
Binder	Sugars	10-15%
Binder	Additives	2-5%
Facer	Black mat facer	5-8%
Packaging	Plastic	<1%
Packaging	Cardboard	2-5%

Total impacts by life cycle stages [mPts/per func unit]



How our product compares to previous years' results

In 2018, Knauf Insulation North America published a product-specific Type III EPD for Black Acoustical Board. The 2018 EPD and this 2023 EPD both followed the UL PCR Part A and Part B for Building Envelope Thermal Insulation. The life cycle results considered for benchmarking in each EPD were consistent; the data sources were consistent as they pertained to priority of primary and secondary data sources and application of specific secondary, non-LCI data; cut-off criteria were consistently applied; and product-specific use phase and end-of-life calculations were consistently applied. To ensure comparability, the 2018 benchmark EPD results were recalculated using the most recent LCA software version and most recently updated LCI data sets, then used for benchmarking with the 2023 updated EPD. The updated 2018 total results from cradle to grave were as follows: global warming 4.03E+00 kg CO₂-eq, ozone depletion potential 2.78E-10 kg CFC-11 eq, fossil fuel depletion 5.44E+00 MJ surplus, and eutrophication 8.93E-04 kg N eq.

Black Acoustical Board results from 2023 show improvements across the global warming potential and ozone depletion potential impact categories. The next highest performing impact category was fossil fuel depletion, which showed only a 7% increase in impacts. The impact reductions for GWP and ODP primarily stem from A3. Differences in manufacturing activities contribute significantly when comparing the 2023 results to the 2018 results and identifying the contributors to performance improvement.

The lowest performing impact category compared (higher impact results than in 2018) was eutrophication. The biggest contributors to eutrophication are the sugars in the binder and the water used in the fiberizing step during manufacturing. More water was consumed in this step as compared to previous years.

LCA results

LIFE CYCLE STAGE	RAW MATERIAL ACQUISITION	MANUFACTURING	TRANSPORTATION	INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE	DISPOSAL/ REUSE/ RECYCLING
	(X) A1 Raw materials	(X) A3 Manufacturing	(X) A4 Distribution	(X) A5 Installation	(X) C1 Deconstruction
	(X) A2 Transportation			(X) B1 Use	(X) C2 Transportation
				(X) B2 Maintenance	(X) C3 Waste processing
				(X) B3 Repair	(X) C4 Disposal
				(X) B4 Replacement	
				(X) B5 Refurbishment	
				(X) B6 Operational energy use	
				(X) B7 Operational water use	
Information modules: Included (X) Excluded (MND)*					
*Module D is also excluded from this system boundary (MND).					

SM Single Score [Learn about SM Single Score results](#)

Impacts per 1 square meter of insulation material	1.07E-02 mPts	2.73E-02 mPts	9.03E-04 mPts	8.32E-05 mPts	1.22E-03 mPts
Materials or processes contributing >20% to total impacts in each life cycle stage	Batch material and binder material production.	Energy required to melt the glass and produce the glass fibers.	Truck and rail transportation used to transport product to building site.	Transportation to landfill and landfilling of packaging materials.	Transportation to landfill and landfilling of product at end of life.

TRACI v2.1 results per functional unit (Black Acoustical Board - Shelbyville, IN)

LIFE CYCLE STAGE	RAW MATERIAL ACQUISITION	MANUFACTURING	TRANSPORTATION	INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE	DISPOSAL/ REUSE/ RECYCLING	
Ecological damage						
Impact category	Unit					
Global warming	kg CO₂ eq	1.59E-01	3.05E+00	4.87E-02	1.32E-02	5.92E-02
Ozone depletion	kg CFC-11 eq	1.93E-12	3.86E-13	1.09E-16	1.89E-17	1.71E-15
Acidification	kg SO₂ eq	2.41E-03	4.93E-03	2.50E-04	2.85E-05	2.48E-04
Eutrophication	kg N eq	1.76E-03	1.44E-03	2.14E-05	4.61E-06	1.53E-05
Human health damage						
Impact category	Unit					
Smog	kg O₃ eq	2.56E-02	9.00E-02	8.58E-03	1.67E-04	4.85E-03
Respiratory effects	kg PM_{2.5} eq	1.73E-04	2.81E-04	1.22E-05	6.67E-07	1.67E-05
Additional environmental information						
Impact category	Unit					
Carcinogenics	CTU_h	8.5%	89.0%	0.2%	0.0%	2.2%
Non-carcinogenics	CTU_h	14.2%	80.0%	0.4%	0.0%	5.4%
Ecotoxicity	CTU_e	26.5%	72.2%	0.6%	0.0%	0.6%
Fossil fuel depletion	MJ surplus	1.14E+00	4.49E+00	9.14E-02	1.92E-03	1.16E-01

References

LCA Background Report
Knauf Insulation North America and Manson Insulation Products LCA Background Report (public version), Knauf Insulation North America (KINA) 2023; developed using the TRACI v2.1 and CML impact assessment methodologies, and LCA for Experts modeling software.

ISO 14025, "Sustainability in buildings and civil engineering works – Core rules for environmental product declarations of construction products and services"

ISO 21930:2017 serves as the core PCR for all life cycle Part A.

UL Part A: Life Cycle Assessment Calculation Rules and Report Requirements v4.0

March, 2022. PCR review conducted by Lindita Bushi, PhD, Chair (Athens Sustainable Materials Institute), lindita.bushi@athenasmi.org; Hugues Imbeault-Tétrault (Group AGECO); and Jack Geigib (Ecoform).

UL Part B: Building Envelope Thermal Insulation EPD Requirements, v2.0

April, 2018. PCR review conducted by Thomas Gloria, PhD, Chair (Industrial Ecology Consultants) tgloria@industrial-ecology.com; Christoph Koffler, PhD (thinkstep); Andre Desjarlais (Oak Ridge National Laboratory).

UL Environment General Program Instructions v2.4, July 2018 (available upon request)

2018 Transparency Report for Black Acoustical Board, Knauf Insulation North America (KINA) 2018.

[Download PDF](#) SM Transparency Report / EPD

SM Transparency Reports (TRs) are ISO 14025 Type III environmental declarations (EPDs) that enable purchasers and users to compare the potential environmental performance of products on a life cycle basis. Environmental declarations from different programs (ISO 14025) may not be comparable. Comparison of the environmental performance of products using EPD information shall be based on the product's use and impacts at the building level, and therefore EPDs may not be used for comparability purposes when not considering the building energy use phase as instructed under this PCR. Full conformance with the PCR for Building Envelope Thermal Insulation allows EPD comparability only when all stages of a life cycle have been considered. However, variations and deviations are possible. Example of variations: Different LCA software and background LCI datasets may lead to differences results for upstream or downstream of the life cycle stages declared.

What's causing the greatest impacts

All life cycle stages

The manufacturing stage dominates all impact categories except ozone depletion, where the raw material acquisition stage takes precedence. The energy required to melt the glass and produce the glass fibers is the largest contributor to the manufacturing stage. The impact of the raw material acquisition stage is mostly due to the batch and binder materials. The contributions to outbound transportation are caused by the use of trucks and rail transport. The only impacts associated with installation and maintenance are due to the disposal of packaging waste, which is the smallest contributor of all the stages. At the end of life, insulation is manually removed from the building and landfilled. For all products, waste is dominated by the final disposal of the product. Non-hazardous waste accounts for waste generated during manufacturing and installation.

Raw materials acquisition and transportation

The raw material acquisition stage is the second highest contributor for most impact categories, but ozone depletion potential is almost entirely generated from this stage. The raw materials acquisition stage impact is largely due to the borax, manganese oxide, and soda ash in the batch and the sugars in the binder. Third-party verified ISO 14040/44 secondary LCI data sets contribute more than 80% of the total impacts to ozone depletion.

Manufacturing stage

The manufacturing stage has the most significant contribution to all impact categories, primarily due to the energy required to melt the glass and produce the glass fibers. Since some batch ingredients significantly contribute to the respiratory effects category, they can lead to higher impact results in the raw materials acquisition stage. However, since sand and borax are melted in the oven with the other batch materials, they are not released into the air as fine particulates. Therefore, the calculated potential impacts as shown in the results tables are likely much larger than the actual impacts in the raw material acquisition stage. This implies that the manufacturing stage may have a greater share of the impact than what is displayed in the total impacts by life cycle stage.

Distribution

Outbound transportation is the third highest contributor to smog impacts.

End of life

The end-of-life impacts are largely due to landfilling of the product after it has been removed from the building and transported to a landfill. Since materials are assumed to be landfilled at the end of life rather than incinerated or reused/recycled, no materials are available for energy recovery or reuse/recycling.

Embodied carbon

Embodied carbon can be defined as the cradle-to-gate (A1-A3) global warming potential impacts. The total embodied carbon per functional unit of Black Acoustical Board manufactured in Shelbyville, IN is 3.21E+00 kg CO₂-eq per functional unit.

About 2018 results

The 2018 Transparency Report for Black Acoustical Board serves as a benchmark to which the 2023 results can be compared. One impact category was used for comparison to satisfy the LEED LCA optimization credit: global warming potential. Its reduction alone can contribute towards satisfying credits under LEED. The reduction in this impact category reflects that this report is valued at 1.5 products.

Total impacts: 2018 to 2023 comparison Highest and lowest performing impact categories



How we're making it greener

Knauf Insulation North America (KINA) is committed to providing products that conserve energy and preserve natural resources.

- Our products with ECOSE® Technology contain a bio-based binder adhesive instead of a fossil fuel-based binder.
- Our fiberglass contains on average over 60% recycled glass, which requires about 20% less energy required to form glass fibers, and results in about 25% reduction in embodied carbon.
- Our glass is audited by a 3rd party to ensure biosoluble chemistry from a health and safety standpoint.

[See how we make it greener](#)

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SM Transparency Report (EPD)™ + Material Health Overview™

EPD LCA

3rd-party verified Transparency Report (EPD)

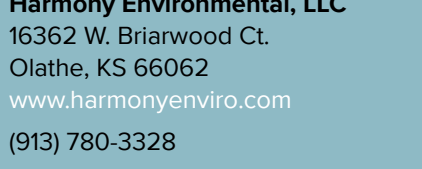
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Contact us

LCA & material health results & interpretation

Black Acoustical Board

Shelbyville, IN

Material health

Evaluation programs

Declare

Declare labels are issued to products disclosing ingredient inventory, sourcing and end of life options. Declare labels are based on the Manufacturers Guide to Declare, administered by the International Living Future Institute.

How it works

Material ingredients are inventoried and screened against the **Living Building Challenge** (LBC) Red List which represents the 'worst in class' materials, chemicals, and elements known to pose serious risks to human health and the greater ecosystem.

Assessment scope and results

Declare™

Inventory threshold: 100ppm

Declare level:

The Declare product database and label are used to select products that meet the LBC's stringent materials requirements, streamlining the materials specification and certification process.

- LBC Red List Free [?]
- LBC Red List Approved [?]
- Declared [?]

Click the label to see the full declaration.

● **Black Acoustical Board**



What's in this product and why

Declare level

Black Acoustical Board have no **Red List** chemicals. The Red List is a list of chemicals that are not allowed in Living Building Challenge buildings. Being Red List free is our design benchmark at Knauf.

These products utilize a bio-based binder chemistry derived from corn that is formaldehyde-free and more interior friendly than phenol-formaldehyde (P/F) systems. This product transformed the industry, moving away from P/F systems and toward bio-based binder adhesive systems for these types of products.

The ingredients of Black Acoustical Board avoid the 800+ chemicals of the Living Building Challenge Red List. This is primarily because of its bio-based binder adhesive chemistry known as ECOSE® Technology. ECOSE® Technology is based on dextrose or high fructose corn syrup instead of phenol and formaldehyde. Dextrose and fructose can be used interchangeably. The ECOSE® Technology binder allows the product to be validated by the UL Environment as formaldehyde-free. Formaldehyde is a Red List chemical.

Knauf Insulation board products are the only formaldehyde-free glass mineral fiber boards available in the marketplace today.

What's in the product and why

Knauf led the industry in bio-based development to avoid phenol and formaldehyde in our processes beginning in 2008. This development was likely the largest green chemistry disruption of our era. Today, our competitors have followed or are striving to meet this benchmark.

The primary ingredient in this product is recycled glass. While recycled content may vary from year to year, the recycled content is currently greater than 60% by weight. The second largest content is silica sand which is sourced as locally as possible. The third largest ingredient is corn-based syrup (dextrose or fructose). As a result of using plant-based binders, the VOC profile of this product is very interior friendly.

The emission from our factories is also much better for our communities. We ensure our glass formulations have no serious health concerns by allowing our processes to be audited to meet European Certification Board for Mineral Wool Products (EUCEB) biosolubility requirements.

Where it goes at the end of its life

At this time, the product is landfilled at end of life. We take extended producer responsibility very seriously and have active programs to address end of life. There is no option other than landfills at this time.

How we're making it healthier

Knauf engages very closely with its vendors to eliminate and avoid chemicals of concern. No competitor has as many Red List free products as Knauf Insulation. We continually reduce our environmental impacts through recycled content and optimize our products by designing them to be transformative.

[See how we make it greener](#)

References

Declare

[KNAUF INSULATION BLACK ACOUSTICAL BOARD](#)

Manufacturer's Guide to Declare

A comprehensive guide providing information about the program, the assessment methodology, how to submit material data to obtain a Declare label and how they are used to meet the Health & Happiness and Materials Petals of the Living Building Challenge.

Rating systems

LEED BD+C: New Construction | v4 - LEED v4

Building product disclosure and optimization Material Ingredients

Credit value options 1 product each

1. Reporting 2. Optimization 3. Supply Chain Optimization

LEED BD+C: New Construction | v4.1 - LEED v4.1

Materials and resources Material Ingredients

Credit value options 1 product each

1. Reporting 2. Optimization 3. Supply Chain Optimization

Living Building Challenge

Materials petals imperatives

10. Red List Free 12. Responsible Industry 13. Living Economy Sourcing

WELL Building Standard®

Air and Mind Features

- X07 Materials Transparency

- X08 Materials Optimization

Collaborative for High Performance Schools National Criteria

EQ C7.1 Material Health Disclosures

- Performance Approach 2 points

- Prescriptive Approach 2 points

SM Transparency Report (EPD)™ + Material Health Overview™

EPD	LCA
3rd-party verified	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Transparency Report (EPD)	
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MATERIAL HEALTH	Material evaluation
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How we make it greener

Black Acoustical Board

Collapse all

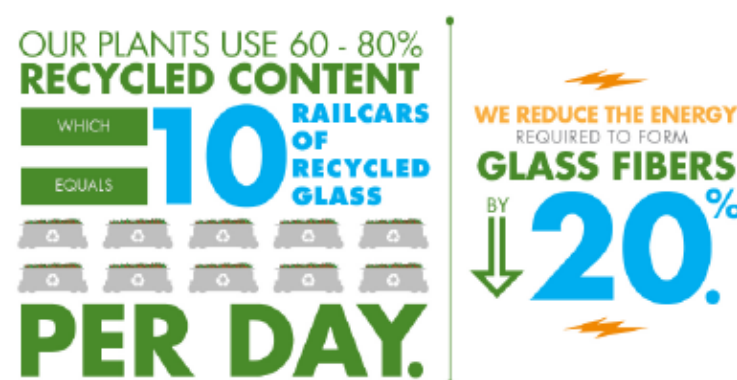
RAW MATERIALS ACQUISITION



Utilize recycled content

By leveraging recycled content, we reduce the energy required to form glass fibers.

- We use about 10 railcars of recycled glass per day.



MANUFACTURING

Lead green chemistry efforts

Following the launch of our ECOSE® Technology in 2008, we had transformed most of our products and processes to this new technology. Using our bio-based ECOSE® Technology has removed phenol and formaldehyde from our stack emissions. This initiative not only established Knauf Insulation North America in a leadership position, but it had a transformative impact on our industry in general.



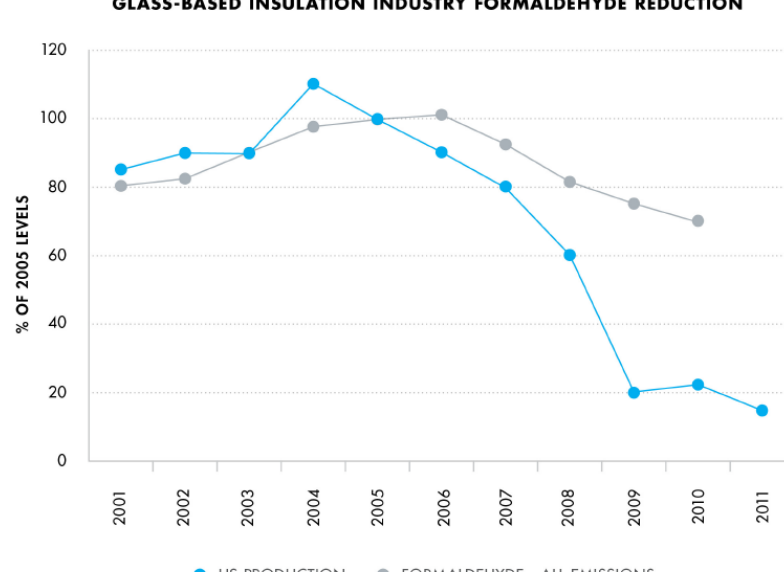
Reduce scrap generation and energy consumption

Continuous improvement is the methodology we utilize to engage the entire Knauf team in our manufacturing excellence and sustainability journey.

Knauf Insulation, comprised of Knauf Insulation North America (KINA) and Knauf Insulation Europe, Middle East, Asia, Asia Pacific (KI EMEA & APAC), share an overall global certification for ISO 45001 Health & Safety, ISO 14001 Environmental, ISO 50001 Energy, and ISO 9001 Quality through a third-party Certification Body.

Our Continuous Improvement Program, with all its tools and systems associated with it, provide a formal process where we are constantly monitoring our manufacturing and sustainability Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) with an eye towards improvement. This Continuous Improvement centric management system has proven to be effective in improving our sustainability by reducing scrap generation and energy consumption.

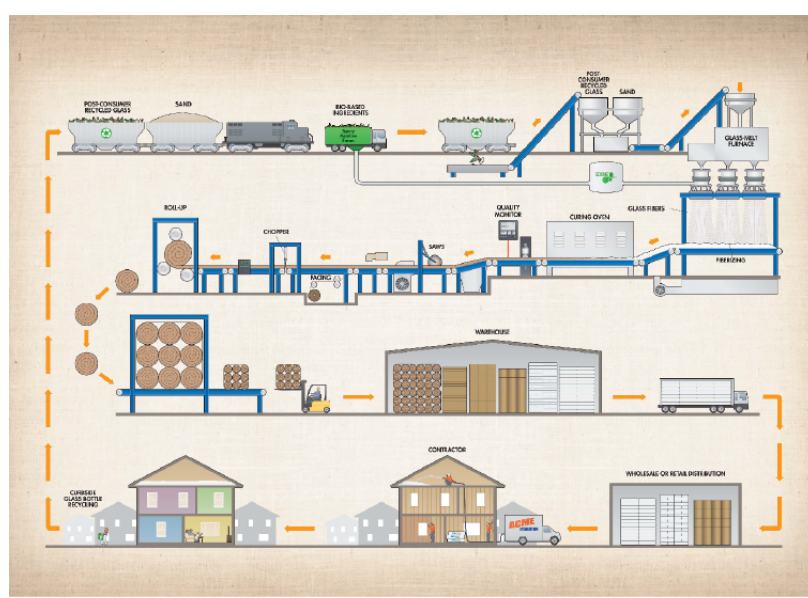
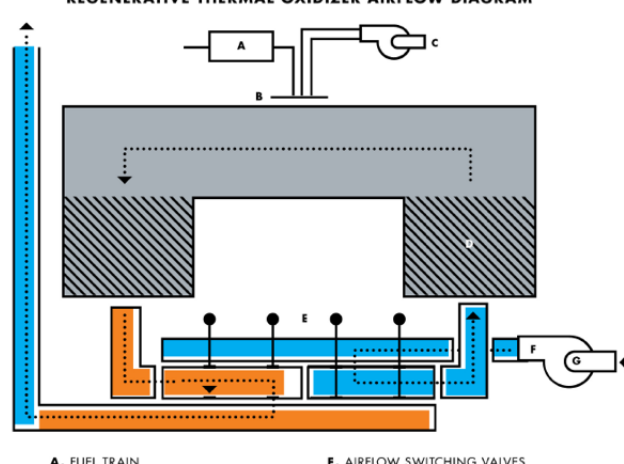
GLASS-BASED INSULATION INDUSTRY FORMALDEHYDE REDUCTION



Green manufacturing Processes

Regenerative thermal oxidizers We use regenerative thermal oxidizers (RTO) to capture and recycle much of the energy we use to cure our products. RTO is equipment used for the treatment of exhaust air. Our ovens exhaust into a ceramic heat exchange media to capture and reuse the heat in the exhausted air. Therefore, the amount of energy required to cure our product is reduced substantially.

REGENERATIVE THERMAL OXIDIZER AIRFLOW DIAGRAM



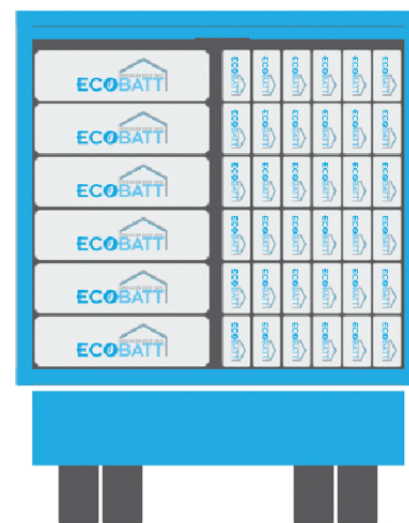
TRANSPORTATION



Leverage compression packaging

Glass is a high modulus material, which helps to facilitate compression packaging. We compress our insulation to fit up to five times more product on every truck, thereby reducing the amount of deliveries that need to be made, which saves time and emissions from transportation.

WE COMPRESS OUR INSULATION TO FIT UP TO 5X MORE PRODUCT ON EVERY TRUCK.



INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE



Be confident in glass fiber's safety

In the past, a label regarding the carcinogenic potential of insulation made from glass fibers was required on all packaging. Following forty years of research, fiberglass has been exonerated entirely. Our fiberglass is comprised of fibers that are biosoluble, meaning that the fibers dissolve in the body in a short period of time and exit the body with normal bodily functions. The scrutiny fiberglass has undergone is now seen as proof of its safety.

Meet and exceed green standards

GREENGUARD certified On the forefront of indoor air quality, Knauf Insulation North America had the first GREENGUARD certified product in 2002. This achievement led us to understand the impact our formaldehyde-free products could have on the indoor environment. The formaldehyde-free claim is third party validated by UL Environment.

3rd Party UL Environmental Claim Validation states that Knauf Insulation products manufactured in North America contain an average of 61% recycled content, consisting of 20% post-consumer and 41% pre-consumer recycled glass.

EUCEB tested Glass fiber is a widely studied building material. All of our processes and formulations are voluntarily third-party audited for compliance with the health and safety exonerated criteria for glass and rock based fiber through the European Certification Board for Mineral Wool Products (EUCEB) exonerated process. This guarantees the formulations are biosoluble and pose no health concerns. Having over 35 years of research behind its safety, fiberglass products have been thoroughly evaluated and therefore we believe it is one of the safest building materials available today.



Green building rating systems

Our products offer a vast array of potential credits for major green building rating systems, including: WELL, LEED v4, International Green Construction Code, Green Guide for Health Care, NAHB Green Building Standard, and more.

Visit the [green building rating systems page](#) to see all the credits you can earn using Manson and Knauf Insulation products

Green building rating system credits

Find out all the credits you can earn with Knauf products.

[Learn more](#)

DISPOSAL



Promote Recycling

By taking a comprehensive approach of the benefits of recycling, Knauf Insulation North America advocates and promotes local recycling initiatives as well as actively participates in state and local government policy development. In addition, as a member of the North American Insulation Manufacturers Association (NAIMA) and Glass Recycling Coalition (GRC), we encourage regulatory and legislative initiatives that focus on glass recycling infrastructure deployment to increase the availability of post-consumer recycled glass.



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LCA software; LCI database
LCA for Experts v10.7; LCA for Experts 2023

In accordance with ISO 14044 and the reference PCR, this life cycle assessment was conducted by Sustainable Minds and verified by Harmony Environmental, LLC.

Public LCA:
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