



**ADVANCED
FIBER TECHNOLOGY**

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Cellulose Insulation and Heat Generating Devices

Heat Generating Devices

In 1979, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) issued a requirement in 16 C.F.R. 1404, which reads in part *“Keeping cellulose insulation least three inches away from the sides of recessed light fixtures. Do not place insulation over such fixtures so as to entrap heat. Also keep this insulation away from exhaust flue of furnaces, water heaters, space heaters or other heat-producing devices.”*

This is printed on our bag under “Precautions: To Help Avoid Fires” as required by this regulation.

Furthermore, the International Residential Code (IRC) also refers to labeling the product with the above. 16 C.F.R. 1404 will not be reissued with this information, however, a 1998 letter from CPSC indicates acceptance of insulation contact with heat generating devices so listed. We hope this clarifies this topic. Please advise if you have additional questions or contact your local building inspector for the specifics of your application.

Recessed Lights

The only recessed lights that can be safely covered with thermal insulation are “IC rated” fixtures. They will have a label that says “IC rated.” This label is usually on the inside of the can housing. If the can housing is a non-type IC fixture, law requires that they have a warning label. This usually reads *“Warning. Risk of fire, Non-type IC only, Do not install insulation within three inches on sides or wiring compartment.”*

This applies to ALL thermal insulation.

Recessed can lights will also have bulb watt recommendations. These recommendations must be followed to achieve safe operation. Too large of a bulb or the wrong kind of bulb will overheat even in a IC rated can. Thermostats often fail in the closed position. Do not rely solely on them for your safety.