



Area (A) = 96 sq. ft. of exterior wall
DeltaT = 50 Degrees F
Density of Air = 1.08
U = 1/R
R = Effective Thermal R-value
Assessed R-value Pre-Insulation = 4

Formulas:

Thermal Heat Loss (Conduction):

$$\text{Heat Loss (Q)} = U * A * \text{DeltaT}$$

$$\text{BTU/hr (Q)} = (1/R) * A * \text{DeltaT}$$

Air Leakage Heat Loss (Convection):

$$\text{Heat Loss (Q)} = 1.08 * \text{CFM}(50) * \text{DeltaT}$$

$$\text{BTU/hr (Q)} = 1.08 * \text{CFM}(50) * \text{DeltaT}$$

Example (Heat Loss = Thermal Loss + Air Leakage Loss) - Pre-Insulation of Exterior Wall

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Thermal Loss} &= \text{BTU/hr (Q)} = (1/R) * A * \text{DeltaT} \\ &= (1/4) * 96 * 50 \\ &= 0.25 * 96 * 50 = 1,200 \text{ BTU/hr.}\end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Air Leakage Loss} = \text{BTU/hr (Q)} = 1.08 * \text{CFM} * \text{DeltaT}$$

A "standard" or typical residential wall assembly, before dedicated air sealing, often exhibits a leakage rate around 0.40 to 0.60 CFM50 per square foot of wall surface area at a pressure difference of 50 Pascals (CFM50/ft²). (delta® academy)

For this example we selected 0.50 CFM(50) as the leakage factor.

$$\text{CFM} = 0.50 * 96 = 48 \text{ CFM(50)}$$

$$\text{Air Leakage Loss} = 1.08 * 48 * 50 = 2,582 \text{ BTU/hr.}$$

$$\text{Total Pre-Insulation BTU/hr Loss} = 1,200 + 2,582 = 3,792 \text{ BTU/hr}$$

Example (Heat Loss = Thermal Loss + Air Leakage Loss) - Post-Insulation of Exterior Wall

For this example, based on the IR camera inspection, we have calculated 98% of the wall was dense-packed appropriately, with 2% gaps (voids) around outlets and light switches.

Installed effective R-value = 13.

$$\text{Thermal Loss} = \text{BTU/hr (Q)} = (1/R) * A * \text{DeltaT (Area Dense-Packed)}$$

$$= (1/13) * (96 * .98) * 50$$

$$= 0.077 * 94.08 * 50 = 362.21 \text{ BTU/hr.}$$

Thermal Loss = BTU/hr (Q) = (1/R) * A * DeltaT (Voids/Gaps)

$$= (1/4) * (96 * .02) * 50$$

$$= 0.25 * 1.92 * 50 = 24 \text{ BTU/hr.}$$

Total Thermal (Conduction) Heat Loss = 362.21 + 24 = 386.21 BTU/hr.

Air Leakage Loss = BTU/hr (Q) = 1.08 * CFM * DeltaT (Convection)

Air Leakage per Area: Studies indicate that properly dense-packed walls often achieve leakage rates below 0.05 cfm/ft² at 50 Pa. (buildingscience.com)

Dense-Packed Area

$$\text{CFM} = 0.05 * (96 * .98) = 4.7 \text{ CFM}(50)$$

$$\text{Air Leakage Loss} = 1.08 * 4.7 * 50 = 253.8 \text{ BTU/hr.}$$

Voids and Gaps

$$\text{CFM} = 0.5 * (96 * .02) = 0.96 \text{ CFM}(50)$$

$$\text{Air Leakage Loss} = 1.08 * 0.96 * 50 = 51.84 \text{ BTU/hr.}$$

Total Post-Insulation BTU/hr Loss = 253.8 + 51.84 = 305.64 BTU/hr (Convection)

Total Post-Insulation (Thermal and Air Leakage) BTU/hr = 386.21 + 305.64

$$= 691.85 \text{ BTU/hr.}$$

Perfect Insulation Install Vs. Practical Insulation Install

Thermal Loss = BTU/hr (Q) = (1/R) * A * DeltaT (100% Area Dense-Packed)

$$= (1/13) * (96) * 50$$

$$= 0.077 * 96 * 50 = \mathbf{369.6 \text{ BTU/hr.}}$$

Air Leakage Loss = BTU/hr (Q) = 1.08 * CFM * DeltaT (Convection)

Air Leakage per Area: Studies indicate that properly dense-packed walls often achieve leakage rates below 0.05 cfm/ft² at 50 Pa. (buildingscience.com)

Dense-Packed Area

$$\text{CFM} = 0.05 * (96) = 4.8 \text{ CFM}(50)$$

$$\mathbf{\text{Air Leakage Loss} = 1.08 * 4.8 * 50 = 259.2 \text{ BTU/hr.}}$$

$$\mathbf{\text{Total Leakage (Conduction + Convection)} = 369.6 + 259.2 = 628.8 \text{ BTU/hr.}}$$

Delta between practical vs. perfect: 691.85 - 628.8 = 63 BTU/hr per ~ 100 sq. ft.

Saving (BTU/hr):

Perfect 100% Dense-Packed Walls: 83%

Practical Dense-Packed Walls: 82%