

Storage and Exposure of ROCKWOOL Exterior Insulation on a Construction Site

ROCKWOOL Cavityrock®, Cavityrock® Black, Comfortboard® 80 and Comfortboard® 110 are durable and water-repellent exterior stone wool insulation boards specifically designed for rainscreen systems. When installed behind the exterior cladding, which offers some protection, these insulation products are expected to be exposed to some amount of wind-driven rainwater, but they are not designed to withstand prolonged direct exposure to the elements, including rain, snow, wind and hail, all of which can cause physical damage and contamination. To minimize such exposure, ROCKWOOL recommends ensuring adequate protective measures of the insulation during the installation.

Temporary Storage of Exterior Insulation on a Construction Site

ROCKWOOL strongly recommends that product be stored indoors, in a dry location. The insulation should not be stored in areas that flood, to prevent it from being submerged in water. It should be a minimum of 4 inches (102 mm) above dry ground and kept on a solid flat surface. If the product is stored outdoors, the product should be protected by a waterproof membrane such as a tarp, that has been secured in such a way to allow for ventilation.

Pallets of ROCKWOOL insulation products are at times covered with a protective hooding, which is intended to provide protection while the insulation is being transported, and for short-term storage at the construction site. It is not intended to protect the insulation from prolonged exposure to outdoor weather conditions during extended storage periods. If pallets with a protective hooding are stored outdoors, the protective hooding should be perforated and the product should be protected by a waterproof membrane such as a tarp, that has been secured in such a way to allow for ventilation.

Long term improper storage and failure to protect the insulation could result in physical damage and contamination, in which case it should not be used.

Managing Exposure of Exterior Insulation During Construction

During construction, exterior insulation may be exposed to elements such as rain, snow, and ultraviolet (UV) light. To minimize potential damage, ROCKWOOL recommends a strategic installation sequence where the cladding is applied soon after the insulation to ensure timely and effective protection. However, given the realities of the job site, immediate installation of the cladding may not always be feasible.



When exposed to clement weather conditions, ROCKWOOL unfaced exterior wall insulation products, when installed vertically, may remain exposed for up to 90 days without negatively affecting their properties. Faced insulation product Cavityrock® Black, may be exposed for up to 30 days without adverse effects.

If the cladding cannot be installed within these timeframes, or if extreme weather conditions are expected, it is recommended to temporarily protect the insulation. This can be done using a waterproof membrane, such as a tarp, installed in such a way to allow for ventilation. Indeed, ROCKWOOL advises against exposing exterior insulation to extreme weather conditions, such as hurricanes, tornadoes, high winds, torrential downpours, and blizzards.

Furthermore, it is crucial that ROCKWOOL exterior insulation is not subjected to free-draining water due to inadequate water management systems within the building, including temporary drainage systems used during construction.

Additional Considerations

Insulation boards installed at the lower levels of buildings are more susceptible to damage; therefore, special attention should be given to protecting these exposed insulation boards.

When installing ROCKWOOL insulation products in low-slope roofing applications, such as ROCKWOOL Toprock® DD and ROCKWOOL Multifix™, or products used as spandrel insulation in curtain wall systems, such as ROCKWOOL Curtainrock®, it is crucial to ensure that these products are dry before closure of the system, as these systems typically have a limited capacity for drying.

Inspection Guidelines for ROCKWOOL Insulation After Exposure to the Elements

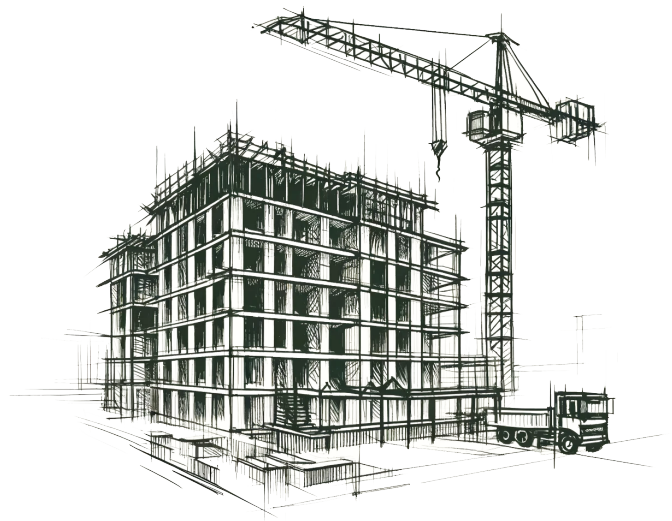
A visual inspection¹ should be carried out when ROCKWOOL insulation products have been exposed to the elements for an extended period or when they have been exposed to extreme weather conditions:

- The insulation should be dry and must not release water when a light pressure is applied.
- The insulation should be free of foreign substances.
- The insulation should show no sign of physical damage.

If the insulation fails to meet at least one of these conditions, it is recommended that it be replaced.

It should be noted that a visual inspection alone cannot guarantee that the insulation material has retained the performance indicated on its datasheet, after exposure to the elements. If there is any doubt about the performance of insulation that has been exposed to the elements, it is recommended that laboratory tests be carried out on a representative number of samples to validate performance, or that the material in question be replaced.

ROCKWOOL is committed to providing high-quality insulation products. To maintain the performance of our products, we strongly encourage all relevant stakeholders, including contractors, architects, and other parties involved in the installation of insulation on buildings, to ensure proper handling and storage of ROCKWOOL insulation materials. It is their responsibility to ensure that the insulation boards are adequately protected from environmental conditions that could potentially lead to damage. ROCKWOOL cannot assume responsibility for losses or damages arising from the improper handling or exposure of these products on the construction site.



For more information about the UV resistance of ROCKWOOL stone wool insulation, access **ROCKWOOL's Technical Bulletin[®]** at rockwool.com.



To get in touch with the ROCKWOOL Technical Services team, visit rockwool.com/north-america/contact/[®] or call at 1-877-823-9790

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¹ While ROCKWOOL can provide guidance for inspections, ROCKWOOL does not offer formal jobsite inspections or inspection reports for installed exterior insulation. If a formal inspection is needed, ROCKWOOL recommends engaging a third-party professional to perform the inspection.