

01-08-08

**NEWS FROM THE MECHANICAL INSPECTORS
CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM INSPECTIONS**

The R-8 insulation is a big concern with most contractors now that it is required.

The following is a brief explanation.

See the 2006 NC Energy Code table 503.3.3.3 for the requirements for single family dwellings.

1. Ducts in unconditioned attics or outside of the building. R-8 supply and R-4 return.
2. Ducts in unconditioned basements, crawl spaces, garages and other unconditioned areas. R-8 supply and R-2 return. See footnote b, Insulation on return ducts in basements are not required. This is the basement side only not the garage side.
3. For supply duct work that is installed in concealed locations such as between floors or in furred spaces or even in closed crawl spaces the code does require some level of insulation for condensation but the insulation does not need to meet the energy code. See section 603.12 in the 2006 Mechanical Code.

When are you required to use the duct insulation?

1. January 1, 08
2. If the building permit was purchased before Jan 08 and is on the 2002 Residential code you may use the old requirements. The builder will need to put this information on his building permit so we will have a record on which code he is building on or we will assume you are on the 2006 Code.
3. Remember this does not apply to change outs or add-ons the new insulation is required on all permits purchased for jobs in 2008.

The next items are the five most common code violations that are found during inspections.

1. Installation of flex duct. The problem we see is kinked flex. Make sure you have enough room to run the flex with-out restricting it or compressing the insulation. This will be more important now with the new insulation factors.
2. Gas pipe sizing, please see chapter 4 of the gas code for sizing requirements and if any questions come up please call the field inspector in your area for assistance.
3. Access openings for crawl spaces and attics. See sections 306 of the 2006 NC Mechanical Code for access to attics, crawl spaces and rooms containing equipment.
4. Primer on PVC, use the proper purple primer so we can see that this is done properly. Do not mix this prior to installation. You will need to prime it first then apply the glue.
5. Support of PVC vent pipes, please follow the manufacture instructions for supporting the PVC vent pipes and combustion air pipes.

Please send any comments to miken@cityofws.org we would like to hear from you on any topics

Thanks

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