OUTDOOR PROTECTION OF INSULATION

EXTERIOR INSULATION PROTECTION

Insulation installed in exterior applications is subject to damage due to sunlight, moisture, maintenance operations and even animals. These elements will cause damage to all insulation materials resulting in significant cost to replace the insulation sooner than anticipated. As a result, the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and ASHRAE standard 90.1 have the following sections designed to protect the insulation from outdoor hazards:

ASHRAE 90.1-2013
5.8.1.7 Insulation Protection
Exterior insulation shall be covered with a protective material to prevent damage from sunlight, moisture, landscaping operations, equipment maintenance, and wind.

IECC- 2015
C403.2.10.1 Protection of piping insulation
Piping insulation exposed to weather shall be protected from damage, including that due to sunlight, moisture, equipment maintenance and wind, and shall provide shielding from solar radiation that can cause degradation of the material. Adhesives tape shall not be permitted.

C604.12 Weatherproof barriers.
Insulated exterior ducts shall be protected with an approved weatherproof barrier.

These standards make it clear that exterior insulation must be protected from exterior hazards. Therefore, installing insulation in exterior applications without protection is not in compliance with these standards regardless of the insulation’s composition or manufacturer’s claims. Armacell recommends, at minimum, to coat insulation on exterior applications with 2 coats of WB Finish and recoat every 2-4 years. For more substantial protection, with less maintenance, a protective jacket can be applied to the insulation.

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