

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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Building Envelope Requirements

With the adoption of the 2009 International Residential Code, insulation values have increased and preventing air infiltration has become stricter. The following is the prescriptive envelope component criteria for new construction, additions, and renovations to one and two family dwellings in the Town of Ellington, which is in Climate Zone 5. In addition to the increased insulation values required from Section N1102.1, Section N1102.4 now requires a blower door test or third party inspection report of the air barrier. Section N1103 also requires the HVAC ductwork to be air tested. Please call with any questions you may have regarding these requirements.

N1102.1 Insulation and fenestration criteria

Window:	Maximum fenestration U-factor of .35
Ceiling:	R-38 (sunroom - R-24)
Wall:	R-20 or 13+5 insulated sheathing (sunroom - R-13)
Floor:	R-30
Basement Wall:	R-10 Continuous or R-13 cavity (full wall heights)
Slab Perimeter:	R-10 for 2 feet deep for unheated, R-15 for heated
Crawl Space Wall:	R-10 Continuous or R-13 cavity

Reference:	2009 International Residential Code portion of 2005 Connecticut State Building Code- Chapter 11
Alternative:	Perform full home system analysis, chapter 4 (Res-Check) which may reduce requirements.

N1102.2.3 Access hatches and doors. Access doors from *conditioned spaces* to unconditioned spaces (e.g., attics and crawl spaces) shall be weather-stripped and insulated to a level equivalent to the insulation on the surrounding surfaces.

N1102.4 Air leakage.

N1102.4.1 Building thermal envelope. The *building thermal envelope* shall be durably sealed to limit infiltration. The sealing methods between dissimilar materials shall allow for differential expansion and contraction. The following shall be caulked, gasketed, weather-stripped or otherwise sealed with an air barrier material, suitable film or solid material.

1. All joints, seams and penetrations.
2. Site-built windows, doors and skylights.

3. Openings between window and door assemblies and their respective jambs and framing.
4. Utility penetrations.
5. Dropped ceilings or chases adjacent to the thermal envelope.
6. Knee walls.
7. Walls and ceilings separating the garage from *conditioned spaces*.
8. Behind tubs and showers on *exterior walls*.
9. Common walls between *dwelling units*.
10. Attic access openings.
11. Rim joists junction.
12. Other sources of infiltration.

N1102.4.2 Air sealing and insulation. Building envelope air tightness and insulation installation shall be demonstrated to comply with one of the following options given by **Section N1102.4.2.1** or **N1102.4.2.2**.

TABLE N1102.4.2 AIR BARRIER AND INSULATION INSPECTION

COMPONENT	CRITERIA
Air barrier and thermal barrier	Exterior thermal envelope insulation for framed walls is installed in substantial contact and continuous alignment with building envelope air barrier. Breaks or joints in the air barrier are filled or repaired. Air-permeable insulation is not used as a sealing material.
Ceiling/attic	Air barrier in any dropped ceiling/soffit is substantially aligned with insulation and any gaps are sealed. Attic access (except unvented attic), knee wall door, or drop down stair is sealed.
Walls	Corners and headers are insulated. Junction of foundation and sill plate is sealed.
Windows and doors	Space between window/door jambs and framing is sealed.
Rim joists	Rim joists are insulated and include an air barrier.
Floors (including above garage and cantilevered floors)	Insulation is installed to maintain permanent contact with underside of subfloor decking. Air barrier is installed at any exposed edge of floor.
Crawlspace walls	Insulation is permanently attached to walls. Exposed earth in unvented crawlspaces is covered with Class I vapor retarder with overlapping joints taped.
Shafts, penetrations	Duct shafts, utility penetrations, knee walls and flue shafts opening to exterior or unconditioned space are sealed.
Narrow cavities	Batts in narrow cavities are cut to fit, or narrow cavities are filled by sprayed/blown insulation.
Garage separation	Air sealing is provided between the garage and conditioned spaces.

Recessed lighting	Recessed light fixtures are airtight, IC rated and sealed to drywall. Exception-fixtures in conditioned space.
Plumbing and wiring	Insulation is placed between outside and pipes. Batt insulation is cut to fit around wiring and plumbing, or sprayed/blown insulation extends behind piping and wiring.
Shower/tub on exterior wall	Showers and tubs on exterior walls have insulation and an air barrier separating them from the exterior wall.
Electrical/phone box on exterior wall	Air barrier extends behind boxes or air sealed type boxes are installed.
Common wall	Air barrier is installed in common wall between dwelling units.
HVAC register boots	HVAC register boots that penetrate building envelope are sealed to subfloor or drywall.
Fireplace	Fireplace walls include an air barrier.

N1102.4.2.1 Testing option. Tested air leakage is less than 7 ACH when tested with a blower door at a pressure of 50 pascals (0.007 psi). Testing shall occur after rough in and after installation of penetrations of the building envelope, including penetrations for utilities, plumbing, electrical, ventilation and combustion appliances.

During testing:

1. Exterior windows and doors, fireplace and stove doors shall be closed, but not sealed;
2. Dampers shall be closed, but not sealed; including exhaust, intake, makeup air, back draft, and flue dampers;
3. Interior doors shall be open;
4. Exterior openings for continuous ventilation systems and heat recovery ventilators shall be closed and sealed;
5. Heating and cooling system(s) shall be turned off;
6. HVAC ducts shall not be sealed; and
7. Supply and return registers shall not be sealed.

N1102.4.2.2 Visual inspection option. The items listed in Table N1102.4.2, applicable to the method of construction, are field verified. Where required by the code official, an *approved* party independent from the installer of the insulation, shall inspect the air barrier and insulation.

N1103.2 Ducts.

N1103.2.1 Insulation. Supply ducts in attics shall be insulated to a minimum of R-8. All other ducts shall be insulated to a minimum of R-6.

Exception: Ducts or portions thereof located completely inside the *building thermal envelope*.

N1103.2.2 Sealing. Ducts, air handlers, filter boxes and building cavities used as ducts shall be sealed. Joints and seams shall comply with **Section M1601.4**. Duct tightness shall be verified by either of the following:

1. Post-construction test: Leakage to outdoors shall be less than or equal to 8 cfm (3.78 L/s) per 100 ft² (9.29 m²) of conditioned floor area or a total leakage less than or equal to 12 cfm (5.66 L/s) per 100 ft² (9.29 m²) of conditioned floor area when tested at a pressure differential of 0.1 inch w.g. (25 Pa) across the entire system, including the manufacturer's air handler end closure. All register boots shall be taped or otherwise sealed during the test.

2. Rough-in test: Total leakage shall be less than or equal to 6 cfm (2.83 L/s) per 100 ft² (9.29 m²) of conditioned floor area when tested at a pressure differential of 0.1 inch w.g. (25 Pa) across the roughed in system, including the manufacturer's air handler enclosure. All register boots shall be taped or otherwise sealed during the test. If the air handler is not installed at the time of the test, total leakage shall be less than or equal to 4 cfm (1.89 L/s) per 100 ft² (9.29 m²) of conditioned floor area.

Exception: Duct tightness test is not required if the air handler and all ducts are located within *conditioned space*.

N1103.2.3 Building cavities. Building framing cavities shall not be used as supply ducts.

N1103.3 Mechanical system piping insulation. Mechanical system piping capable of carrying fluids above 105°F (40°C) or below 55°F (13°C) shall be insulated to a minimum of R-3.