

Free Fiber Glass Building Insulation Product Line

Johns Manville, a Berkshire Hathaway company, is a leading manufacturer and marketer of insulation and building materials. The company continuously strives to offer its customers the most innovative and solutions-focused products with an underlying theme of health and well-being.

Formaldehyde, a colorless gas, is used in manufacturing many household building materials including carpet, paint, and insulation. Formaldehyde is a Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) listed by the EPA as a common indoor air pollutant and a probable carcinogen. Exposure to formaldehyde indoors can lead to headaches, eye and throat irritation and, in extreme cases, pulmonary edema. Health problems caused by formaldehyde can either be acute, meaning they occur immediately or within a few days of exposure, or they can be chronic, taking years to develop. For decades, formaldehyde was used in manufacturing fiber glass building insulation as a component of the binder.

In an effort to reduce concerns about indoor air quality, in 2002 Johns Manville became the first and only manufacturer of fiber glass insulation to remove formaldehyde in production of its full line of in-sulation and instead began using an innovative acrylic binder. JM Formaldehyde-free® insulation provides the same high-quality thermal and acoustical performance you've come to expect from Johns Manville, only without the formaldehyde. In addition, the change to an acrylic binder indicates that the EPA's National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants required under the Clean Air Act no longer applies to Johns Manville building insulation manufacturing plants. Since the introduction of JM Formaldehyde-free, more than 100 tons of hazardous pollutants are eliminated from the air each year.

Industry leader Rohm and Haas developed the innovative formaldehyde-free binder for Johns Manville. The material is a specially formulated version of Rohm and Haas' Acrylic Thermoset technology developed for Johns Manville. It binds fiber glass together, providing the strength, durability and re-siliency required by the insulation industry, but is non-toxic and doesn't use formaldehyde during any step of the manufacturing process.

This innovation has forever changed not only the building insulation industry, but the standards for which building materials are evaluated. More and more, consumers are voicing concerns regarding indoor air quality and exposure to VOCs. Research has shown that most homeowners are concerned about indoor air quality and 89 percent of homeowners say they would buy formaldehyde-free over other insulation because of these concerns. Because of its formaldehyde-free fiber glass products, Johns Manville has found people are taking on more projects because the insulation is easier and more comfortable to install. Homeowners are also becoming more willing to insulate additional areas of their homes, and do so with the added peace of mind that they are installing a product that contains no formaldehyde.

The current trend of "green" building and environmentally sustainable construction and manufacturing is increasingly becoming the standard rather than something new or revolutionary. Recognizing the importance of green building product innovations, the building industry has presented Johns Manville with numerous awards and recognitions for Formaldehyde-free fiber glass insulation, including the BuildingGreen Top 10 New Green Building Products of 2002, Architecture magazine's ACE award in 2002 and 2003, a Most Valuable Product Award by Building Products magazine, and Architectural Record editor's picks for best products of 2002.

Because of this dedication to improving indoor air quality, and because of the industry leading innovation Johns Manville builds into all of its products, the formaldehyde-free fiber glass building insulation product line should warrant serious consideration for a NOVA Award.

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