

Frequently Asked Questions

What is R-value? A measure of the resistance of heat flow through a material. Building materials with higher R-values are more effective at reducing heat transfer than those with lower R-values. Insulation helps keep heat inside in the wintertime and outside in the summertime.

Do cedar logs have a higher R-value than other wood species commonly used in the log home industry? Yes, the R-value of northern white cedar is 25% higher than that of commonly used pine.

Why choose one of Katahdin's log wall insulation packages? Our standard insulation package increases the R-value of our cedar log wall by 56% at no additional cost to you. Our Energy Envelope System increases the R-value of our cedar log wall by 156%. With either of our wall insulation packages, energy savings will be immediate.

Why does Katahdin's cedar log wall with standard insulation package or new energy envelope system outperform stick-framed walls with fiberglass insulation? Our insulation packages offer continuity. With our proven systems, you don't have to worry about thermal bridging and wall cavity convection that is inherent with conventional, stick frame methods. With stick framing/cavity insulation methods, the whole wall R-value is reduced by the number of studs and other framing members because the R-value of the studs is far less than that of the cavity insulation. Energy is lost through wood framing members. With Katahdin's systems, the entire log wall is covered on the inside by rigid insulation which provides consistent, whole wall R-value and drastically reduces air and moisture infiltration. Occupant comfort is the end result.

How much heat loss/gain typically comes from air infiltration? Studies have proven that 30-40% of a heat loss in the wintertime and heat gain in the summertime results from air infiltration.

Does Katahdin offer high R-value vented "Double Roofs"? Yes, we offer 4", 5", and 6" thick roof insulation in our double roofs. The insulation we supply offers the highest R-value per inch of any rigid type insulation available. Our double roofs range from R-28 to R-41. As with our wall insulation packages, our roof insulation package offers continuity in R-value – a difference you'll appreciate!

What about windows and doors? Katahdin offers high efficiency Andersen windows and patio doors standard. We also offer high-end Eagle windows (an Andersen company) featuring triple pane glass for added efficiency. Therma-Tru insulated, fiberglass passage doors are our both durable and efficient and are our standard passage door offering. Andersen, Eagle, and Therma-Tru are all leaders in efficient windows and doors.