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**Building Codes Division****Statewide Code Interpretation**

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construction while  
supporting a positive  
business climate.*

**March 7, 2007****No: 2004 OSSC 1307.1.4****2004 Oregon Structural Specialty Code**

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**Code Section:** OSSC 1307.1.4

**Code Edition:** 2004 Oregon Structural Specialty Code

**Date:** Original: 07/15/94 Updated: 3/07/07

**Subject:** Acceptable installation of wall batt insulation.

**Question:** Is installation of compressed insulation acceptable, such as at areas where electrical wires run horizontally across cavities, at plumbing, at vertical cracks which create 2-inch cavities or less, and areas where insulation is compressed behind electrical outlet boxes?

**Answer:** No

**Analysis:** Compression of batt insulation, such as caused by electrical wiring and outlet boxes and plumbing is not acceptable. Batts cut a little wide or long are actually friction fit and are not considered acceptable.

Batt insulation can be sliced at the location of and installed around the wiring or plumbing. Batts can also be cut or split in half, where one-half the batt is installed on the exterior side of the plumbing or wiring.

Batt insulation shall be installed in an acceptable manner around electrical outlet boxes. It can either be installed where the insulation is cut at the perimeter of the outlet box to the depth of the box and that portion compressed behind the box; or

At the outlet box, a piece of insulation is cut a little smaller than the dimension of the outlet box and removed. Insulation remains behind the outlet box, slightly compressed.

Batt insulation installed in wall cavities 2 inches wide and less shall be acceptable when stuffed-in-place so the void is completely filled. Insulation is not required to be installed in cavities less than ½ inch wide.

**Contact:** Richard S. Rogers  
Structural Program Chief  
(503) 378-4472  
richard.rogers@state.or.us