

Technical Bulletin: Spray Foam Safety

Residential New Construction Program



BUILDING A SMARTER ENERGY FUTURESM

Spray polyurethane foam (SPF) has gained popularity in the residential construction industry with its ability to expand into gaps and cracks, resulting in an effective air seal and insulator. However, SPF poses health hazards during the application, and raters should be careful when collecting data on SPF.

During the application process, two chemicals are mixed and sprayed. By themselves, these chemicals are toxic but are relatively inert when combined and cured. Inhaling these vapors will exceed OSHA's occupational exposure limit and may cause bodily harm.

During application, these protective measures should occur:

- The site supervisor or insulator should post warning signs, such as the example below, around the house.
- The site supervisor should restrict unauthorized people not wearing personal protective equipment (PPE). An example of PPE is below.
- Most manufacturers recommend restricting re-entry without PPE for 24 hours after application.



Sign warning of health hazards



Proper personal protective equipment

While SPF is curing we recommend no inspections, walk throughs, or any trade work in the home. For specific guidance on re-entry time for your specific product, please contact the manufacturer for recommendations.

Follow this [link](#) to the EPA's website for more guidance and information on SPF.