

CHOOSING THE RIGHT INSULATION BLANKET SUPPLIER

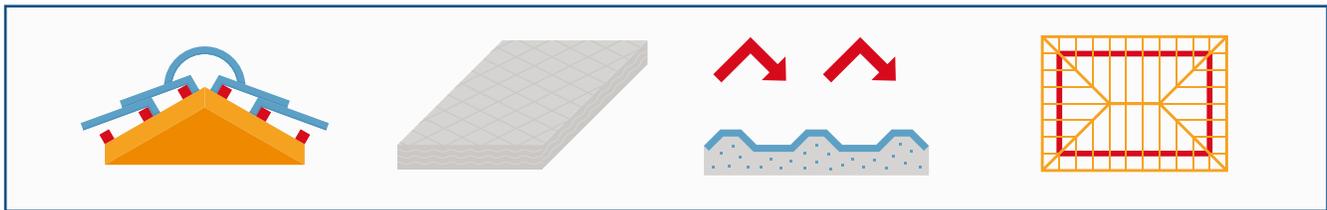
What to Look for When Sourcing Removable Insulation Blankets



Firwin Corp is a leading manufacturer of custom insulation products for diesel and gas engines & exhaust systems, and industrial applications.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR WHEN SOURCING REMOVABLE INSULATION BLANKETS

Insulation blankets have a number of important functions. Depending on the industry and application, they can be used to protect personnel from hot piping, for lowering ambient heat, as heat shields to protect heat sensitive components, and for energy efficiency.

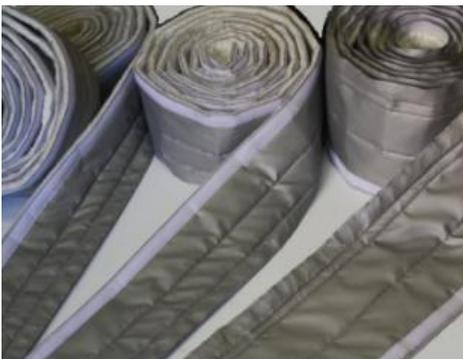


Once you've decided that you need insulation blankets for your project, it's time to source them. But what should you look for when choosing an insulation blanket supplier? Just 'Google it' and choose whichever listing catches your eye?

Here are some tips to guide you in choosing the right insulation blanket supplier for you project:

Product Range Offering

How wide a product range does the insulation supplier offer? Do they only offer removable insulation blankets, or do they also offer permanent insulation solutions? What about off the shelf, stocked items, like high temperature tapes and sleeves? Or even something in between. This can be an important factor, as sometimes the best solution is a combination of the above.



T Wrap



Hard Coat Permanent Insulation



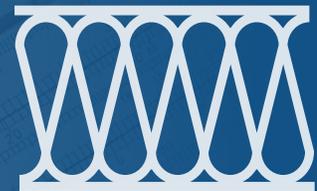
Fiberglass Tape

Temperature / Environment

Applications that are very high in temperature or are in an unusual environment (i.e. rugged outdoor conditions) can have specific needs when it comes to insulation material choice. Make sure that your insulation blanket supplier is recommending the correct material makeup suited to your particular specifications. For instance, fiberglass insulation is typically rated to 1200°F. If the temperature of the component to be insulated is approaching this level or beyond, make sure that a higher temperature insulation is being proposed. Applications in rugged environments often call for a heavy duty outer blanket cover to help ensure the longevity of the blanket over time.



“Make sure that your insulation blanket supplier is recommending the correct material makeup suited to your particular specifications.”



Industry Experience

It is a good idea to choose a supplier with experience in your industry. While there is overlap between industries, some industries have specific needs that might escape a supplier without previous industry knowledge. A good example is underground mining. Standard insulation blankets, while sufficient in

protecting personnel from burns from hot exhaust pipes, might in fact pose a danger here, as in the event of an oil leak, oil may lodge in the insulation material and begin to combust. Underground mining insulation blankets should ideally have an inner liner that is fluid proof (so that oil won't seep into the insulation material), and a reinforced outer surface to deal with the rugged conditions of an underground mine.



MineWrap™ removable insulation blanket with stainless steel inner liner



MineWrap™ Mark III blanket with reinforced outer liner

Understanding of Your Project Goals

As mentioned earlier, insulation blankets can have different purposes, so it is imperative that the goals of an insulation project be clearly communicated to your supplier. If the goal is personnel protection, it's important to make sure that the outer surface temperature of the insulation covers falls within a touch safe temperature range; many companies use UL2200 as a standard. Ask your insulation supplier to provide you with an estimate of the blanket's outer surface temperature. If it's not within a touch-safe range, you may need to consider a higher temperature insulation, or a higher insulation thickness (or a combination of both).



“Insulation blankets have different functions, so it is important that the goals of an insulation project be clearly communicated”



IN HOUSE LIBRARY

Removable insulation blankets are custom manufactured to precisely fit your specific parts. This often means that you will need to supply precise measurements to your insulation provider to enable them to properly make your blankets. For custom exhausts, process piping, and other components, you will either need to take measurements, or supply a dimensioned drawing in order for your blankets to be made. If however, the component you are looking to wrap is an OEM part (i.e. an engine, muffler, SCR, gate valve, etc.), you can save yourself time, money, and potential frustration if your insulation provider has an in-house library of blanket patterns for components they've already done in the past (and they've happened to have done yours!). This will allow you to avoid having to take measurements (time), avoid mal-fitting blankets to due improper measurements (money & frustration), and speed up the quoting and manufacturing turn-around process (more time!).

Other Points to Consider

Aside from the points mentioned above, here are some other points to consider before you choose your insulation blanket provider:



CAD/ 3D Models: If you have CAD or 3D models of the component(s) you want to cover, make sure that your insulation provider can work with these and design the blankets directly from these drawings.



Prototyping: Does your application involve larger quantities? It's a best practice to first have a prototype made and sent to you for test-fitting. Even if the part is being designed from a CAD / 3D drawing, it's better to play it safe and test fit before committing to a larger run. If your insulation provider has not suggested this, let him know this is how you would like to proceed.



Certifications: Check out the provider's certifications. ISO, UL, and Energy Appraisal are some of the more common ones.



Blanket Installation: If you will be needing help installing the blankets, can your insulation provider assist? Are there booklets and videos available from the supplier to guide you in the installation process?



Quality: Is there a QC department ? Anyone can talk about quality, but a QC department speaks to how serious the company takes this issue.



Manufacturing Capacity: If your application calls for higher volume runs , or very large sized blankets, make sure the provider is properly set up to handle these. Ask to see photos of the shop floor, or any videos of the production process. Insulation blanket manufacturing is typically labor intensive, but look for some signs of automation, such as automated cutting machines, to get an idea of the provider’s sophistication.

Conclusion

When you’re ready to choose an insulation blanket supplier, keep this eBook handy. It will help you choose the best supplier for your application, and save you time and money down the line.



The Firwin Corporation team is available to review your insulation blanket needs and inquiries.

CONTACT US NOW >>



The Firwin Corporation has ebooks and White Papers on a variety of topics.

VIEW OUR RESOURCES NOW >>

About Us

Firwin Corporation is a leading manufacturer of custom insulation products for diesel and gas engines & exhaust systems, and industrial applications. Our two main product lines are removable and reusable insulation blankets (also known as removable insulation covers and removable insulation jackets) and permanent Hard Coat™ composite insulation. We also stock a wide range of off-the-shelf high temperature tapes and sleeves.

We service a diverse range of industries, providing insulation solutions for applications such as diesel and gas powered generating stations, gensets, on-road and off-road vehicles, as well as industrial applications such as process and steam line valves, flanges, and piping.



Request information about Firwin's
Insulation Solutions

REQUEST INFORMATION >>



Firwin Corporation

1685 Flint Road, Toronto, ON M3J 2W8

Toll Free: 1.877.347.9467 Tel: 416.745.9389 Fax: 416.745.0782

Email: firwin@firwin.com www.firwin.com