



Firwin FAQ – Hard Coat vs. Removable Insulation Blankets - which one is right for my application?

Although Firwin is one of North America's leading manufacturers of removable insulation blankets, we see ourselves as an insulation solution provider, offering our customers the most appropriate insulation solution that meets their needs. That is why we offer tapes and sleeves, and is why we introduced our Firwin HC™ "Hard Coat" product last summer. As opposed to insulation blankets, which are designed to be removable and reusable, Firwin HC™ is an insulation coating that is affixed to the product. Both removable insulation blankets and Firwin HC™ have its advantages and disadvantages. What variables need to be considered in order to determine which insulation is right for a given application?

"There are a number of factors to consider ", said Brett Herman, Firwin's vice-president of engineering and customer service. "Does the customer require removable insulation? Are there space constraints? Is the application such that there is the potential of fluid seeping into the insulation material, thereby posing a fire hazard?. These are just some of the factors that need to be taken into account when deciding between Hard Coat and standard removable insulation blankets", added Brett.

The chart below outlines the various advantages and disadvantages of Firwin HC vs. Removable Insulation Blankets. As always, it is best to let one of Firwin's customer service representatives help you in choosing the best system for your particular application.

Firwin HC™ Hard Coat vs. Removable Insulation Blankets	
	
Permanently applied to the component - cannot be removed	Blankets can be removed and reused - ideal for equipment that requires periodic maintenance
Solid outer surface - not prone to tearing, ideal for applications under rugged conditions	Standard removable insulation blankets have silicone impregnated outer surface - may tear or puncture

	under rugged conditions.
Component must be disassembled and shipped to Firwin for HC coating to be applied	Removable insulation blankets are designed remotely from measurements, drawings, and photos. Component remains with customer, attached to equipment.
Conforms tightly to part - ideal for limited space applications	Limited space applications can pose a challenge to blanket installation and proper fastening.
Completely encapsulates the part - preventing fluids from igniting on hot engine and exhaust parts	Blankets can act as a shield to prevent fluids from reaching engine and exhaust components, but some seepage under the blanket can occur.
No risk of fluid reaching insulation material and igniting	Can be designed with stainless steel inner liner to prevent fluids from seeping into the insulation material
Non flammable	Fire retardant
Lead time of 3 weeks	Typical lead time of 2 to 3 weeks; can usually be expedited if necessary
Higher cost (6 to 12 times) than standard removable insulation blankets, but longer life span.	Cost can vary according to material make-up of blanket, but more economical than Hard Coat. Blanket life depends on application, and frequency of removal.

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