

SALARY GUIDE

2026 Insulation Salary Guide

National wage benchmarks for the two BLS-tracked insulation occupations, sourced from O*NET's BLS-sourced wage data — with every role that lacks a dedicated wage figure named and explained, not filled with a guess.

How to read this guide.

Every wage and growth figure below is sourced directly from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics via O*NET OnLine's current BLS-sourced wage data, and the standing 2024–34 BLS/O*NET growth projections. These are **national figures for the two BLS occupations that actually cover insulation work**, not internal placement data, and not a substitute for a live local wage check.

Several insulation roles don't map to either dedicated insulation occupation — they sit under an adjacent construction, inspection, estimating, management, or hazmat-removal classification instead. Where that's the case, we name the classification and stop there. We don't fabricate a wage figure where the data doesn't exist.

The two dedicated insulation occupations, BLS-sourced.

OCCUPATION	BLS CODE	MEDIAN ANNUAL	MEDIAN HOURLY	OUTLOOK 2024–34
Insulation Workers, Mechanical	47-2132	\$58,340	\$28.05	+5–6%
Insulation Workers, Floor, Ceiling, and Wall	47-2131	\$49,120	\$23.62	+3–4%

Figures via O*NET OnLine's current BLS-sourced wage data. Mechanical insulation runs roughly \$9,200 above building-envelope insulation at the national median — a gap that reflects the more industrial, code-driven nature of pipe, duct, boiler, and tank work.

We don't have a state-by-state breakdown for this trade — and we're not going to invent one.

Unlike some of the trades we cover, our sourced insulation wage data doesn't include a state-level breakdown. Rather than estimate a state figure with no real source behind it, we're disclosing the gap directly: if you need market-specific wage context for a metro you operate in, that's a question for a live local check, not a number from this guide.

What we can say directionally: insulation wages, like most construction trades, move with local cost of living and how concentrated industrial or mechanical-system work is in a given market — mechanical insulation in particular tends to track with regional industrial and energy activity. See our metro service-area pages at mytradetalent.com/service-areas for market-specific context in the regions we actively recruit.

ROLES WITHOUT A DISTINCT WAGE FIGURE

Eight of the ten roles we recruit for map to an adjacent classification — not a dedicated insulation wage figure.

These roles are real, and we recruit for all of them — but our sourced data doesn't include a distinct wage figure for the adjacent classification each one maps to. We're naming the classification and stopping there rather than filling the gap with a guess:

- **Insulation Foreman / Crew Lead** — BLS 47-1011, First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers.
- **Insulation Estimator** — BLS 13-1051, Cost Estimators.
- **Insulation Project Manager** — BLS 11-9021, Construction Managers.
- **Abatement-Certified Insulator** — BLS 47-4041, Hazardous Materials Removal Workers.
- **Insulation Inspector / QC Technician** — BLS 47-4011, Construction and Building Inspectors.

The remaining three specialty roles — **Spray Foam Technician** and **Blower / Loose-Fill Insulation Technician** — fall under the same BLS 47-2131 (Insulation Workers, Floor, Ceiling, and Wall) code as the general building-envelope wage figure above, per O*NET's own listing of spray foam as a sample job title under that code. **Fireproofing / Firestop Technician** has no dedicated code at all; we group it under 47-2131 as the nearest match, which means its true market wage may run above or below that figure and we have no independent way to verify which.

Mechanical insulation sits inside a broader industrial and mechanical-systems labor market.

Mechanical insulators work alongside, and are sometimes sourced from the same pool as, other mechanical-systems trades — HVAC and pipefitting crews on industrial and commercial mechanical scopes. We don't have independently sourced wage comparisons for those adjacent trades specific to this guide, so we're not going to cite a number here — but the practical implication holds directionally: contractors competing for mechanical insulators are often competing with mechanical-trades employers for the same general labor pool, not just other insulation contractors.

Base wage is the start of the conversation, not the end of it.

- **Certification reimbursement** — manufacturer spray foam training and abatement certification both carry real cost; employer-covered reimbursement is a meaningful differentiator in this trade.
- **Overtime structure** — mechanical scopes in particular can run substantial scheduled overtime on industrial and turnaround work, materially changing take-home pay versus the base annual figure.
- **PPE and equipment provided** — spray foam and abatement-adjacent work both carry specific PPE requirements; whether the employer provides it versus expects the installer to, is worth confirming explicitly.
- **Per diem** — for installers traveling to industrial or out-of-market jobsites, structured separately from base pay.

When benchmarking an offer against this guide's medians, weigh the full package, not just the base figure.

USING THIS GUIDE

Benchmark against the right occupation — not "insulation" in general.

If you're consistently losing candidates at the offer stage, compare your actual offer against the correct occupation's median — mechanical or building-envelope — not a blended average of the two. A building-envelope offer benchmarked against the mechanical median will look uncompetitive for a role it was never meant to compare against, and vice versa.

If you're not sure which classification a specific role or specialty should benchmark against, that's exactly the kind of question a specialized recruiting partner should be able to answer with the actual data, not a guess.

We don't have a published time-to-fill figure for this trade — and we're saying so rather than estimating one.

BLS and O*NET don't publish time-to-fill data for insulation occupations, and we don't have independently verified placement-timeline data of our own to cite in this guide. What we can say directionally, based on the search and certification data earlier in this guide: specialty roles with a mandatory legal credential — abatement-certified work in particular — draw from a smaller, more specialized pool than general building-envelope installation, which is the kind of gap a standing, pre-vetted pipeline is built to close.

The two benchmarked wage figures, side by side.

OCCUPATION	NATIONAL MEDIAN ANNUAL	NATIONAL MEDIAN HOURLY
Insulation Workers, Mechanical (BLS 47-2132)	\$58,340	\$28.05
Insulation Workers, Floor, Ceiling, and Wall (BLS 47-2131)	\$49,120	\$23.62

All other roles covered in this guide map to an adjacent classification with no distinct wage figure available in our sourced data — see the Roles Without a Distinct Wage Figure section for the full list, rather than restating an unverified number here.



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