




Insulation

GREEN KEY	
	
	



- **Attic insulation** is both the most effective and easiest to install in a historic home. Adding 3 1/2 inches of insulation attic can save more energy than new windows.
- **Radiant barriers** reflect heat, lowering cooling costs for the entire building. Their effectiveness depends on the cleanliness and openness of the surface.
- **Floor insulation** is an effective installation. If your house is raised on piers, installation is relatively easy.
- **Wall insulation** can be the biggest challenge in historic houses. When you are choosing to retain the exterior and interior finish material, as we are in the Green Revival house, you will look for **loose fill insulation** products.
- In making this selection, how the material interacts with **water and the humid climate** is important.
- **Cellulose**
 - Typically contains 80% recycled paper
 - Some products, such as Celbar, treat the material with boric acid to deter mold growth and protect against fire damage.
 - Will attract moisture.
- **Fiberglass**
 - Modern fiberglass is 25% recycled glass.
 - There are now fiberglass insulation products sold that are free of formaldehyde, a known cause of cancer.
- **Spray foam (polyurethane)**
 - Little to no recycled content
 - Irreversible. Once inside the wall cavity, it cannot be removed.
 - There are some concerns as to its long-term health effects.
- **Expanded Polystyrene (EPS)**
 - Contains little to no recycled content, but there are some sources of discarded material that can be chipped or ground and reused.