



# CITY OF KYLE

## Building Department Code Interpretation 3202-81-21

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**December 18, 2023**

**Code Interpretation 3202-81-21**

**Question?** What is wind washing and how does it affect blown in insulation?

**Applicable Code Section:** 2021 International Residential Code Table N1102.1.3 requires a minimum R-value of 49 for insulation in ceilings located in climate zone 2. There are also provisions that will allow R-38 to be utilized and approved software like Reschek can also provide options for R-values. Unfortunately, none of these codes factor in the effect of wind washing on blown in insulation.

Wind washing occurs when attic ventilation is installed too close to blown in insulation and gusts of wind displace it diminishing its R-value.

**Conclusion:** Evidence has clearly shown that wind washing can significantly impact the R-value of blown in insulation. Therefore, effective January 1, 2023 the City of Kyle will no longer allow air hawks or other similar attic ventilation devices within 3 feet of blown in insulation. Batt insulation will be required in these areas to ensure wind washing does not lessen the minimum required R-Values for ceiling insulation.

As always, alternative materials and methods will be considered for all codes and interpretations.

If you have any questions, please contact me at [kstilwell@cityofkyle.com](mailto:kstilwell@cityofkyle.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kelly Stilwell".

**Kelly Stilwell CBO, I-2461**

Building Official

City of Kyle

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