

SETMurthy Construction - Case Study

Project Type

Open Cell - Walls - Insulating A New Build

The Project

Located in a popular coastal location in Cornwall, our client, SETMurthy Construction invited ThermoFoam to survey and quote to full fill the wall studs of a vast New Build property. They had never used spray foam insulation before and wanted to weight up the cost/time benefits.

With the current proposal to use mineral fibre batts for the walls, the insulation project would have taken a team of 6 men, five days to insulate to an airtight standard. The motivation for approaching us about Spray Foam was to save time, reduce resources and speed up the wall covering install.

When a new technology or product is introduced, it is natural for people to be sceptical as to whether the install is as straight forward as we lead them to believe, however, the proof is often in the pudding and our experience in the industry gives us the insight to know what can be achieved.

The Specification

We carried out an initial survey before installation and we we discussed with the team at SETMurthy how the install would work and what they could expect as an end result. With the wall studs at 150mm and with Mineral Fibre Batts proposed for this void, we matched the insulation depth like for like.

Although we could have specified our Closed-Cell product, there didn't appear to be any benefit of using this as it expands much slower than the Open-cell,

therefore taking longer to install. The benefit of using Open-Cell were not only in time savings but the tremendous sound-proofing ability of the product.

With the install speed, time critical, we discussed the process of over-filling the wall studs by 10-20mm and then cutting back the foam so that the finished product was flush with the stud faces therefore enabling over-boarding with plasterboard to be a hassle-free process.

External walls of new build properties usually require a minimum of a 0.28 U-Value. To comply with this, we recommend a full fill of your wall studs at 150mm using Open Cell Spray Foam Insulation.

Offering good thermal performance and air-tightness, your project can also benefit from the excellent soundproofing qualities of a low density Open Cell Spray Foam. The installation speed of an Open Cell Spray Foam also surpasses many other forms of insulation such as Rigid-PIR or Fibre.

A service void for electrical cables and other services is usually required when insulating walls. When using Open Cell Spray Foam, cabling can be encased without any detrimental affect to the power loading, furthermore, spray foams do not rot or degrade cables.

The Installation

With the site open at weekends on a skeleton staff, this seemed the perfect opportunity to fully insulate the walls so that we could work with freedom. Whilst we are always respectful of other trades on a construction site, we usually prefer to install without other people trying to work in the same area.

Arriving on the Friday to review the job and commence the preparation works, our team then started at 8am on the Saturday morning. By 5pm, 350m² of walls at 150mm had been insulated. On the Sunday, we sent in our post-install clean up team who managed to cut back the foam and bring back any off-cuts for recycling.

We always like to leave a building as tidy, if not tidier than how we found it and our customer was delighted to come back in on the Monday morning to a fully

insulated building, allowing works to continue and the time schedule caught up.

Client Feedback

We hadn't used Spray Foam on previous projects and were dubious as to whether it would save us any time or money. When the surveyor visited us at site, he was confident that the job could be completed in just over a day and therefore, this seemed appealing to us, enabling us to make up some lost time.

The team at ThermoFoam offered the ultimate of flexibility and agreed to install over a weekend when the site was quiet. This meant that further time was saved because our contractors were able to come in on the Monday morning and get started on the wall coverings immediately.

We were impressed by the finished product and how ThermoFoam had over filled the stud walls and then cut it back flush so that the over-boarding was a straight forward process. We were also impress that the Thermo team were able to cover over 350m² in just over a day.

James Poad, Site Manager, SETMurthy Construction