

UK EXPOSURE ZONES

Exposure of walls to wind driven rain

Rain penetration is an important consideration for new-build homes.

To help ensure that external walls resist the passage of moisture from outside to inside the home, your specification must reflect the temperature and weather conditions where your build is located.

Conditions for wind driven rain are grouped into 'exposure zones'.

Where can mineral wool insulation be used?





Fair faced masonry brickwork with full-fill cavity insulation can be used in very severe exposure locations, provided the cavity width is at least 150mm.

This means that **150mm of full-fill mineral wool insulation can be used in masonry applications across all exposure zones in England and Wales**, allowing you to achieve your desired thermal performance without needing to adapt your specification for different locations.

For more NHBC guidance on exposure zones, including durability and freeze/thaw cycles: nhbc-standards.co.uk

Learn more about guidance for UK housebuilding at our Housebuilders Hub: knaufinsulation.co.uk/Housebuilders-hub

Which zone is your project in?

Exposure zones	Approximate wind-driven rain (litres/m ² per spell)
 Very severe	100 or more
 Severe	56.5 to less than 100
 Moderate	33 to less than 56.5
 Sheltered	33 or less

Variations to the exposure shown on the map can only be made by site-specific calculations using BS 8104 "Assessing exposure of walls to wind driven rain" and the table above.

Adapted from the map in the BRE report "Thermal Insulation: avoiding risks"

Source: NHBC guidance 2024, sections 6.1.6 Exposure and 6.1.7 Thermal Insulation

