EXPANDED POLYSTYRENE

ACT Government

IS MY CHILD'S SCHOOL SAFE?

Experts have assessed that all ACT Public School buildings with potentially combustible cladding are safe to occupy.

It is important to note that the presence of potentially combustible cladding does not necessarily mean that there is an increased fire risk to your school community.

All schools have an Emergency Management Plan in place which is practiced regularly.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF MY SCHOOL IS CONFIRMED TO HAVE POTENTIALLY COMBUSTIBLE CLADDING?

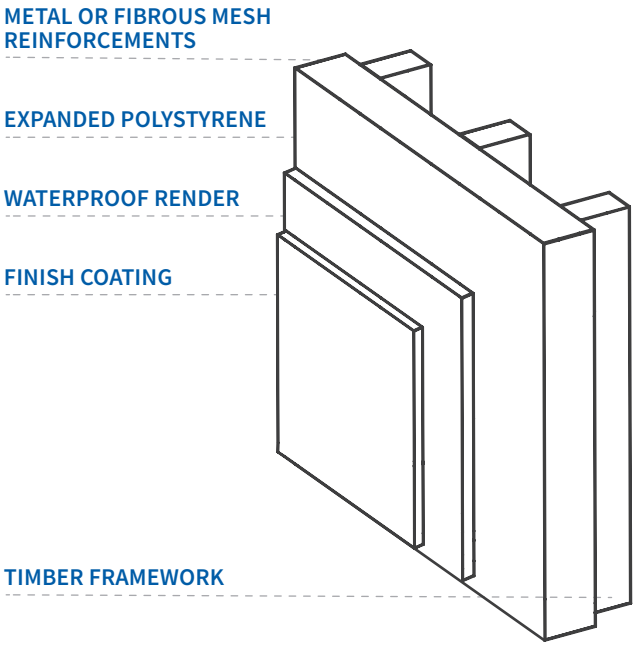
Each building needs a tailored approach depending on the type of cladding used and where it is on the building.

It is not always necessary to remove all cladding as in some instances the location of the material does not increase the risks to occupants of the building.

The next stage of assessments conducted by qualified Fire Engineers will determine the risk materials may pose and what mitigation or removal option/s are most appropriate.

WHAT IS EXPANDED POLYSTYRENE?

Expanded polystyrene is a type of thermoplastic cladding that has been widely used in the Australian building industry over the past 20 years. It has been favoured for its light weight, low cost, ease of installation and thermal insulating properties. It is typically covered with render to look like rendered concrete.



WHAT IS THE FIRE RISK POSED BY EXPANDED POLYSTYRENE?

Expanded polystyrene is highly combustible, and has the potential to ignite, melt or warp when exposed to temperatures of 230 degrees Celsius or higher, with a typical building fire burning at around 800 degrees Celsius.

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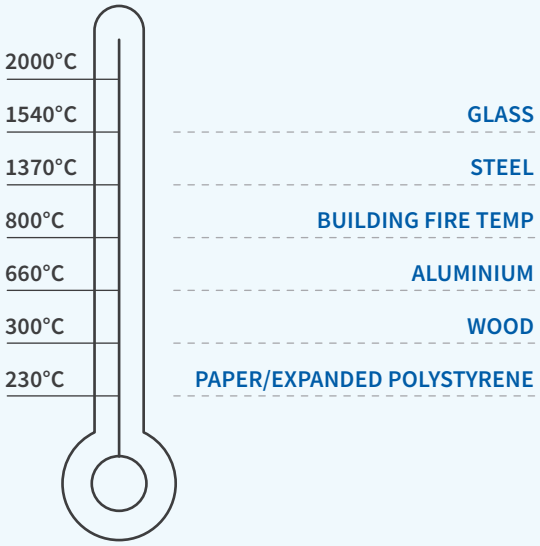
MELTING AND IGNITION POINTS



WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION ON EXPANDED POLYSTYRENE?

The National Construction Code dictates how expanded polystyrene can be used in Australia. You can read the current code as well as the 2016 code at ncc.abcb.gov.au.