

Many homeowners decide to add decking in their attic as a way to get additional storage space or because they need a platform on which to install a new HVAC unit.

Unfortunately, many people install their decking directly on top of the ceiling joists, which limits the amount of space available for insulation. This lowers the R-value of the attic and makes the home much less energy efficient.

Another typical problem is that in order to move around the attic, homeowners place boards directly on top of attic insulation. If the boards sit atop the ceiling joists, it compresses insulation and decreases the effectiveness of insulation.

To ensure proper insulation, the attic decking should be raised above the ceiling joists. This can be accomplished by “edge-nailing” 2-x-4 boards, or 2-x-6 boards, to the top of the ceiling joists where the decking is to be located. Install the decking securely to the top of the raised lumber after the insulation has been installed.

Doing this will enable placement of R-30 insulation between the boards.

These steps will enable storage of items in the attic, while maintaining the integrity of the ceiling insulation.

