

Deep Buried Ducts Protocol

Contractor Requirements and Recommendations for In-Field Applications

The attic is typically the hottest part of a home during the summer, yet that is often where most of the ductwork is located. Rather than suspend HVAC ducts across the top of the attic, where the temperatures are the highest, it makes more sense to install them along the attic floor and bury them in insulation.

To obtain a rebate for deep buried ducts in an attic, the installation must adhere to these guidelines:

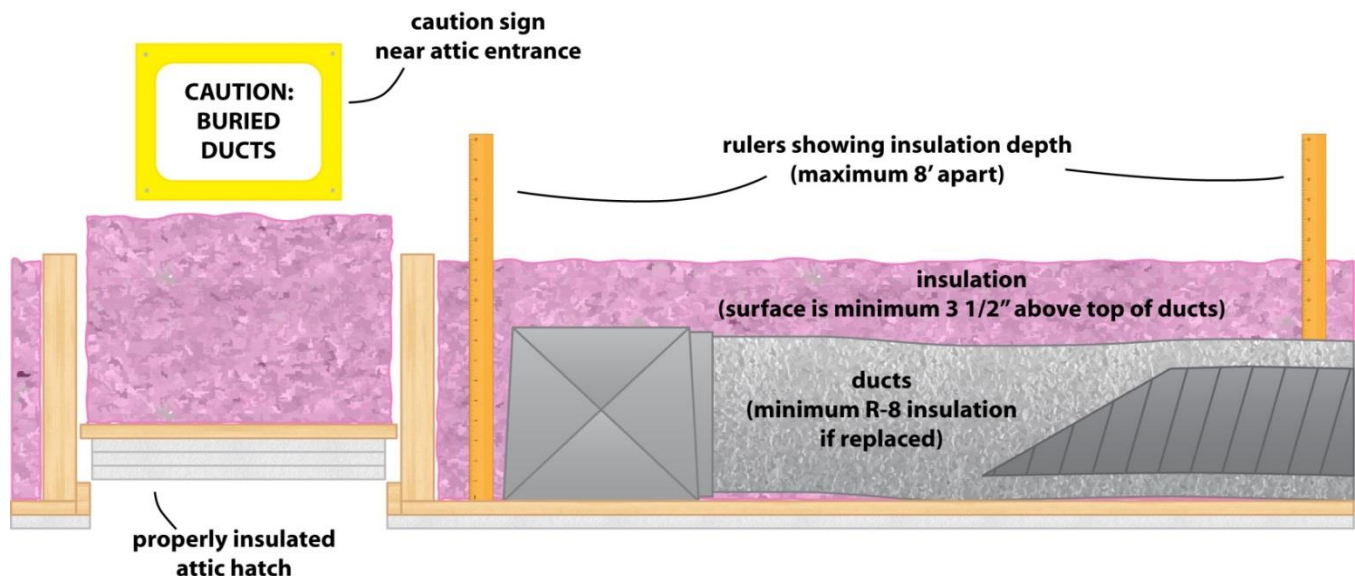
Properly deep bury ducts

- Top of duct is at least 3.5" below the surface of the attic insulation level. Each individual section of ductwork must be buried to the same degree. Verifier will examine the attic to check insulation depth and to ensure that the duct locations can be determined in the future.
- During construction, vertical indicators (rulers) must be placed on buried trunk and branch ducts at a minimum spacing of every eight feet. The rulers are to serve two purposes: (a) to indicate the insulation level of the attic floor and (2) to indicate the locations of the deep buried ducts.
- A sign must be hung near the attic access reading *Caution: Buried Ducts*.

Submit photographs

Provide photographs of the following to Vision with your post-upgrade submission:

- Wide view of shortened, straightened ducts *before* they are deep buried
- Wide view of ducts *after* they are deep buried
- Vertical duct indicators
- "Caution: Buried Ducts" sign



When ducts are found hanging from the attic ceiling, SMUD also highly recommends putting the duct on top of the attic floor, and covering the ducts with insulation until they are deep buried.