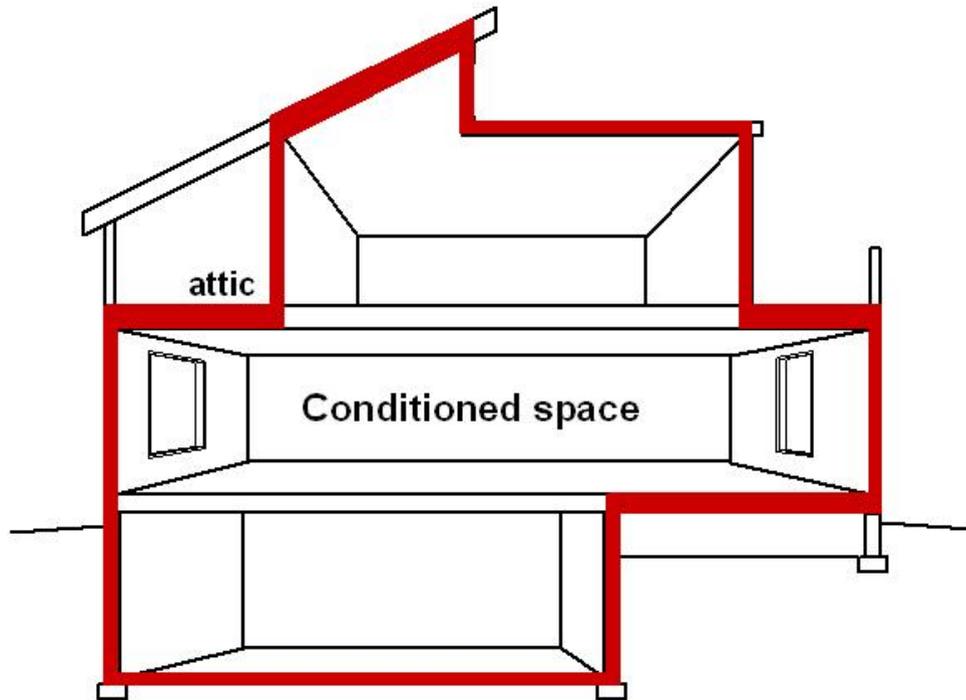




What is the Building Envelope?



The Building Envelope separates conditioned space from unconditioned space or the outdoors.

The "Building Envelope" is the area that separates conditioned space from unconditioned space.

A building envelope includes all components of a building that enclose conditioned space. Building envelope components separate conditioned spaces from unconditioned spaces or from outside air. For example, walls and doors between an unheated garage and a living area are part of the building envelope; walls separating an unheated garage from the outside are not. Although floors of conditioned basements and conditioned crawl spaces are technically part of the building envelope, the code does not specify insulation requirements for these components and they can be ignored.

You can think of the building envelope as the boundary separating the inside from the outside and through which heat is transferred. Areas that have no heating or cooling sources are considered to be outside the building envelope. A space is conditioned if heating and/or cooling is deliberately supplied to it or is indirectly supplied through uninsulated surfaces of water or heating equipment or through uninsulated ducts.

In the graphic, the building envelope is the area surrounded by insulation (red line). The energy code is only concerned with the building envelope.