

RADIANT BARRIER

A radiant barrier acts like a blanket in the winter, containing the warm air in the attic and like a space suit in the summer, reflecting the hot air before it can warm up surfaces in the attic.

MATERIAL

The most-commonly used material for a radiant barrier is foil-faced bubble-wrap, which has a silver shiny surface on one side.

ADVANTAGES

- Reduce summer heat gain in the attic
- Contains the warm air in the attic in winter

Project Cost: Depends on area and labor cost. Material cost: 30 – 50¢ per sft.

INSTALLATION

A radiant barrier's effectiveness depends on its installation, therefore its best to get a certified installer to do it. If doing it as a DIY project, be sure to check and follow instructions and safety precautions from the manufacturer and local building and fire codes.



ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

All effective radiant barriers should have a **low emissivity (less than 0.1)** and **high reflectivity (0.9 or more)**. Applying spray-foam or other insulation right next to the radiant barrier does not help, because materials with a low emissivity have a high conductivity, and it will heat the insulation, leading to heating up the attic anyway.

Source:

www.energysavers.gov