

Your Ventilation System

This advice sheet will explain how to air your home using the built in ventilation system.

Why ventilation is important

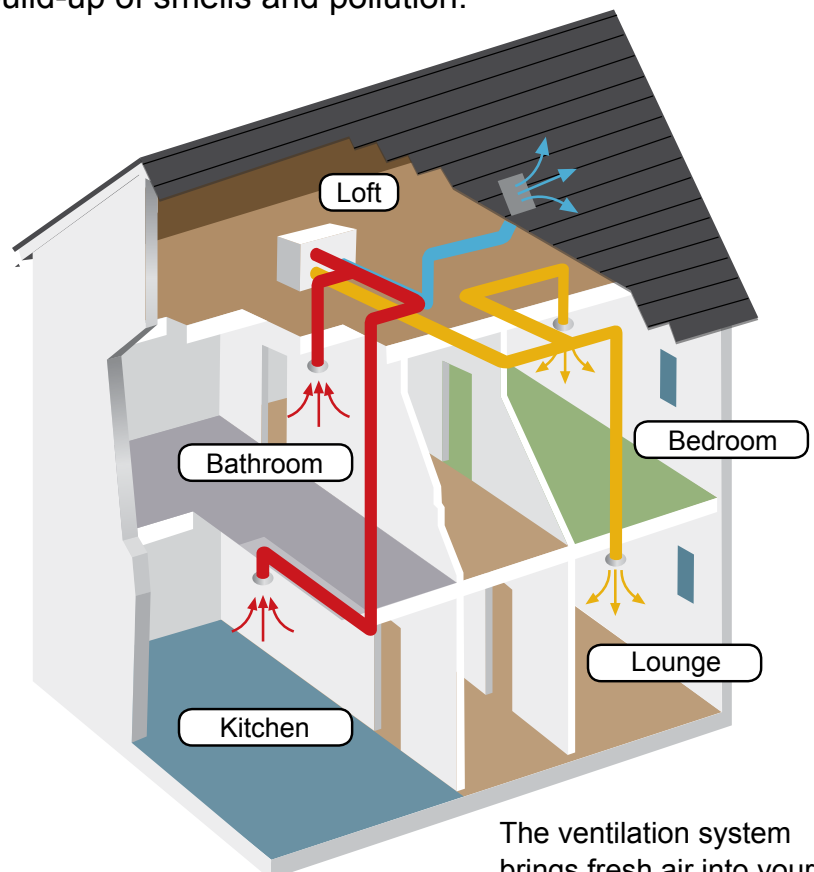
Ventilation is when stale and damp air inside your home is let out and fresh air is let in.

Everyday activities such as cooking, taking a shower and drying clothes add moisture to the air inside your home. If your home is not well ventilated this can cause condensation. You can also get a build-up of smells and pollution.

Over time these problems can affect your health and damage your home. Read the advice sheet on condensation for more information.

New homes are built to be less draughty so that they keep you warm and help to keep your heating bills low. But this can cause dirty, moist air to become trapped more easily.

To stop this from happening your home has been fitted with a ventilation system, sometimes called 'Mechanical Ventilation with Heat Recovery' or 'MVHR' for short.



The ventilation system brings fresh air into your home and removes stale, damp air.

Using your ventilation system

Your ventilation system is made up of vents and fans. The vents let fresh air into your home and the fans take the dirty, moist air out. So it is important to **keep them on all of the time**.

The system traps heat from the stale air and uses it to heat the incoming fresh air so that your home doesn't get cold.

Don't forget

This won't provide you with extra heat so you will still need to use your heating.

For the ventilation system to work properly you need to:

- Keep the ventilation system on all of the time
- Keep your windows closed as much as possible.

If you do want to open your windows, only open them for a short time, because the system won't work properly when they are open.

How your ventilation controls work

The fans will run slowly in the background all of the time.

Getting rid of extra moisture and smells

When you are cooking, showering or drying clothes you need to speed up the fans. You can do this yourself by switching on the boost in the kitchen or bathroom.

Don't forget to:

Switch off the boost when the moisture has gone. It may take up to 30 minutes for the fans to return to their normal speed.

The fans will also speed up by themselves when:

- The light is switched on in the bathroom, or
- The sensors notice that the air is too damp.

Sensors in the fans measure how much moisture is in the air. When there is too much moisture the sensors send a message to the fans to tell them to speed up.

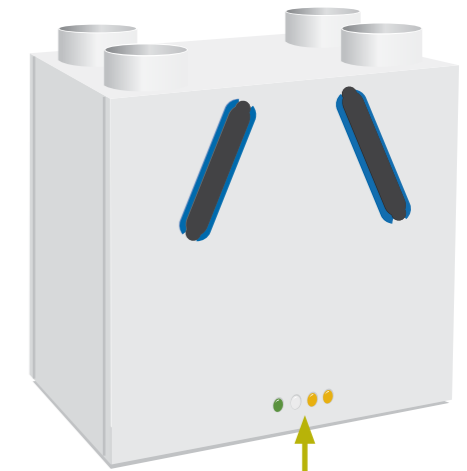
The fans will return to their normal speed when the light is switched off or the moisture levels return to normal.

Changing seasons

When the season changes to winter or summer you need to change the ventilation controls.

Your system has a summer boost switch. This can be found below the main ventilation box, usually in your hall cupboard.

During the warmer, summer months you need to switch the summer boost on. This will remove more of the damp, warm air and bring in more fresh air into your home, making it cooler.



Your ventilation box

Don't forget to:

Turn the summer boost off during the winter to keep your home warm.

There are four lights on the front of the ventilation box. These show what the system is doing and if there are any problems. The picture on the right shows you what these lights mean. Contact a repair person if you see a red light or if the filters need to be changed.

Normal Mode	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supply Fan Fault	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Extract Fan Fault	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Boost	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Summer Boost	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Frost Protection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Filter Change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Running costs

The system uses a very small amount of electricity. It costs around 15p a day to use. But it will save money on your heating bills by trapping heat that would be lost if you opened your window.

Keeping your system working well

The ventilation system has filters which are used to clean the air. To keep the ventilation system working well you will need to clean the filters every six months.

If you live in a flat you can find the filters in the ventilation box, in your hallway.

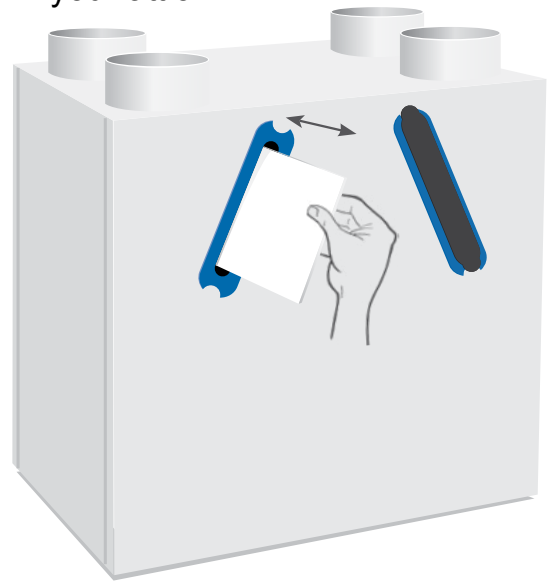
How to clean the filters:

- Take the two grey plastic caps off the front of the box
- Slide both of the filters out (as shown in picture)
- Vacuum the filters to remove any dirt
- Slide the filters back in
- Put the grey plastic caps back in place on the front of the box.

If you live in a house the filters are in the ventilation box in your attic and a repair person will need to clean these for you.

Don't forget to:

- Leave the system switched on all the time you're at home
- Remove anything that might be blocking the fans or vents
- Keep your windows closed as much as possible



Useful Contacts

Home Energy Scotland - Freephone **0808 808 2282**

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