

U.S. Department of Energy - Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Energy Savers

Whole-House Ventilation

The decision to use whole-house ventilation is typically motivated by concerns that [natural ventilation](#) won't provide adequate air quality, even with source control by [spot ventilation](#).

Whole-house ventilation systems provide controlled, uniform [ventilation](#) throughout a house. These systems use one or more fans and duct systems to exhaust stale air and/or supply fresh air to the house. There are four types of systems:

- [Exhaust ventilation systems](#)
Force inside air out of a home.
- [Supply ventilation systems](#)
Force outside air into the home.
- [Balanced ventilation systems](#)
Force equal amounts quantities of air into and out of the home.
- [Energy recovery ventilation systems](#)
Transfer heat from incoming or outgoing air to minimize energy loss.

Learn More

Financing & Incentives

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ENERGY STAR®

Product Information

- [Product & Service Directory](#)
American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers

Professional Services

- [Contractor Locator](#)
Air Conditioning Contractors of America
- [Find a Contractor](#)
Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors Association

Reading List

- *Whole-House Ventilation* ([PDF 399 KB](#)). (December 2002). DOE/GO-102002-0778. U.S. Department of Energy.

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