



Module 7

Ventilation

Energy Efficiency for Construction



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To equip the learner with the relevant knowledge required to understand the benefits of Controlled Ventilation to provide healthy energy efficient buildings.



- Outline the principles of ventilation and the **types of ventilation** systems suitable for different buildings.
- List and describe the causes of **condensation and mould growth** within the building envelope and how they may be avoided.
- Outline the main requirements of **current building regulations** for ventilation.
- Case studies demonstrating scenarios governing the use of **natural ventilation**, including sizing and placement of background ventilators to achieve energy efficient compliance



Topic 1 – Ventilation Flows

Topic 2 – Types of Ventilation

Topic 3 – Ventilation Strategy

On the following slides you will
see this icon:



Click and play to find out more



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Ventilation

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1. Ventilation Flows



Role of Ventilation in a Residential Building

- Main role: Ensure indoor air quality
 - Fresh air supply and stale air/moisture removal
 - Limit the air humidity / avoid mould growth
 - Avoid concentration and build-up of pollutants
 - Limit odour nuisance
- Possible additional roles: Conditioning of the indoor air:
 - Cleaning (filters)
 - Heating / Cooling
- Possible side effect: heat recovery
 - Reduction of ventilation heat losses
 - Increase in comfort due to higher supply air temperatures



The lower the air permeability. The more important the need for ventilation

Highly airtight buildings with poor ventilation likely to suffer from the following:

- Mould, condensation and possible envelope deterioration
- Higher internal relative humidity
- Higher CO₂ levels and occupant discomfort
- Possibly higher radon levels



Ventilation Approaches – Depends on Air Permeability

Air permeability q_{E50} : 3 to 5 $\text{m}^3/\text{h.m}^2$

“Natural Ventilation” with intermittent extract allowed

Air permeability q_{E50} : $< 3 \text{ m}^3/\text{h.m}^2$

Continuous mechanical ventilation required, with
or without heat recovery





2. Types of Ventilation



Natural Ventilation with Background Ventilators

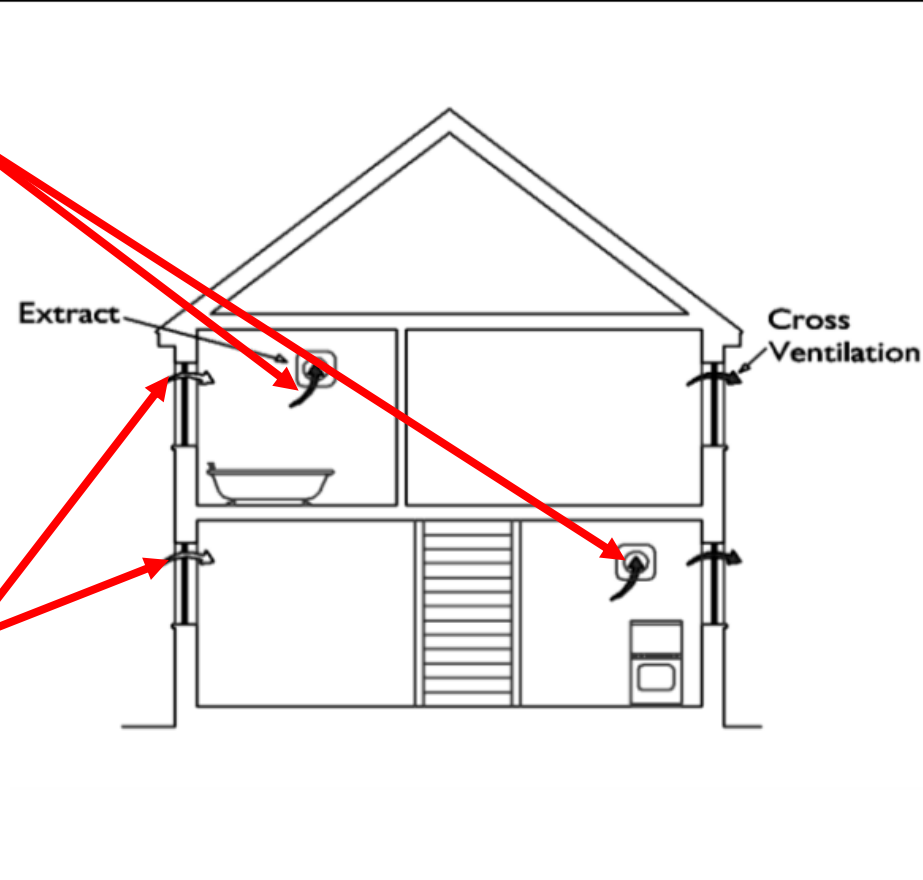


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Bathrooms
and kitchen
to have
intermittent
mechanical
extract

Background
ventilators to
be used in all
rooms

**Diagram 2c: Natural Ventilation with
intermittent fans mechanical extract -
House**



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Image Source:
Department of Housing, Planning and Local
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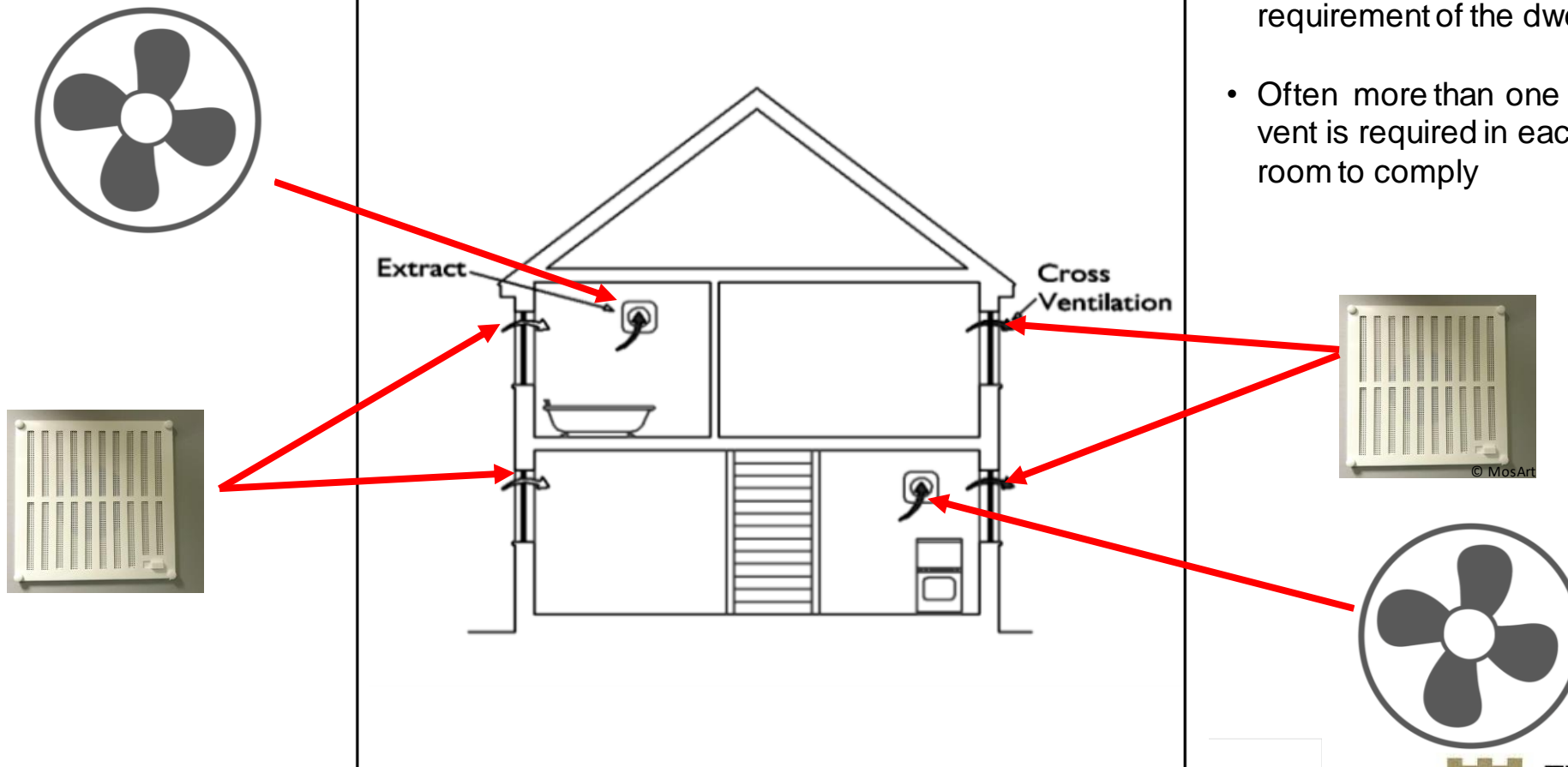


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Natural Ventilation with Background Ventilators

**Diagram 2c: Natural Ventilation with
intermittent fans mechanical extract -
House**



- Size of background vents varies depending on the ventilation requirement of the dwelling.
- Often more than one background vent is required in each habitable room to comply



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Image Source: Diagram - Department
of Housing, Planning and Local Government Ireland

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Background Ventilators



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- Background ventilators should be located to avoid draughts, e.g. more than 1.75 m above floor level
- 'Hole-in-the-wall' vents and trickle vents are most common
- Compliance is determined based on area of background ventilator rather than flowrate
- Because there is no pressure difference created within the dwelling, it is difficult to know how such ventilators perform

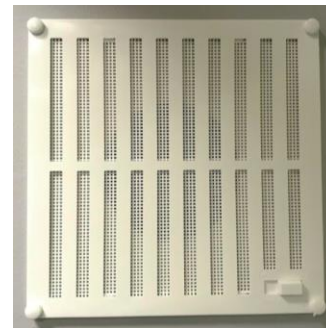
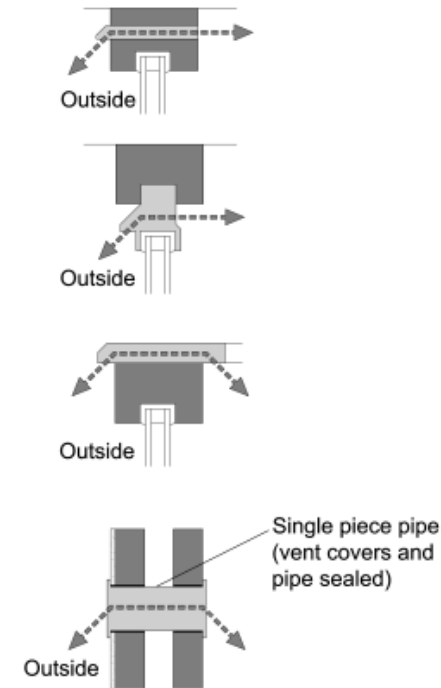


Diagram 5: Typical background ventilators



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Intermittent Extract Ventilation

Table 3: Basic ventilation provision using background ventilators and specific provision for extract and purge ventilation for $5\text{m}^3/\text{hr}/\text{m}^2 >$ air permeability $> 3\text{m}^3/\text{hr}/\text{m}^2$			
Room or Space	General Ventilation Minimum equivalent area of background ventilator ^a (mm ²)	Extract ventilation Extract fan ^b - Minimum intermittent extract rate (l/s) ^h	Purge ventilation Opening window or external door - Minimum provision ^g
Habitable Room	7000 ^{c,f}	-	1/20th of room floor area
Kitchen	3500 ^{c,d,f}	60l/s generally 30l/s if immediately adjacent to cooker (e.g. cooker-hood not recirculating)	Window opening section (no size requirement) ^d
Utility Room	3500 ^{c,d}	30 l/s	Window opening section (no size requirement) ^d
Bathroom	3500 ^{c,d}	15 l/s	Window opening section (no size requirement) ^d
Sanitary Accommodation (no bath or shower)	3500 ^{c,d}	6 l/s ^e	Window opening section (no size requirement) ^d



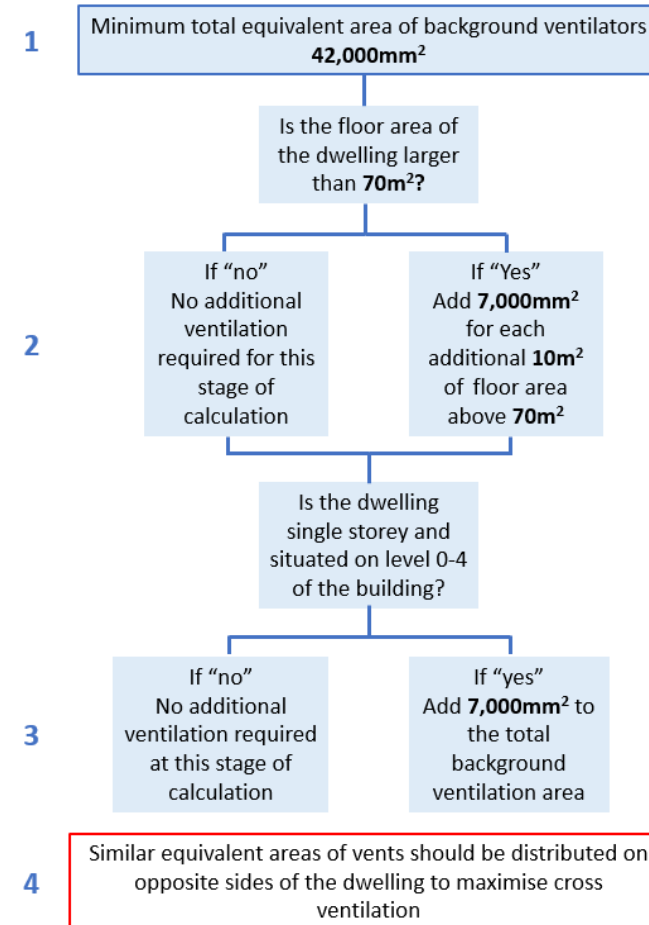
Sizing Natural Ventilation to Comply with Part F

1.2.4 Natural Ventilation

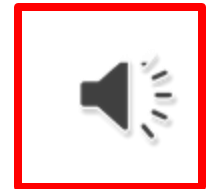
Ventilation Rates

1.2.4.1 Where the air permeability is greater than $3\text{m}^3/(\text{h}.\text{m}^2)$ and lower than $5\text{m}^3/(\text{h}.\text{m}^2)$, the minimum total equivalent area of background ventilators providing general ventilation should be $42,000\text{mm}^2$ with an additional $7,000\text{mm}^2$ for each additional 10m^2 floor area above the first 70m^2 of floor area measured. For single storey dwellings situated at ground level or on any storey up to four storeys, an additional $7,000\text{mm}^2$ per dwelling should be provided. As noted in Paragraph 1.1.15, the areas specified should be increased by 25% where free area of ventilators is used instead of equivalent area.

Source: Department of Planning,
Housing and Local Government



Source: WWETB



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Case study – Natural Ventilation Requirements

Sample House:

Detached bungalow 86m²

Air permeability 4.2m³/(h.m²)

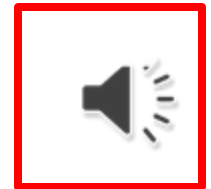
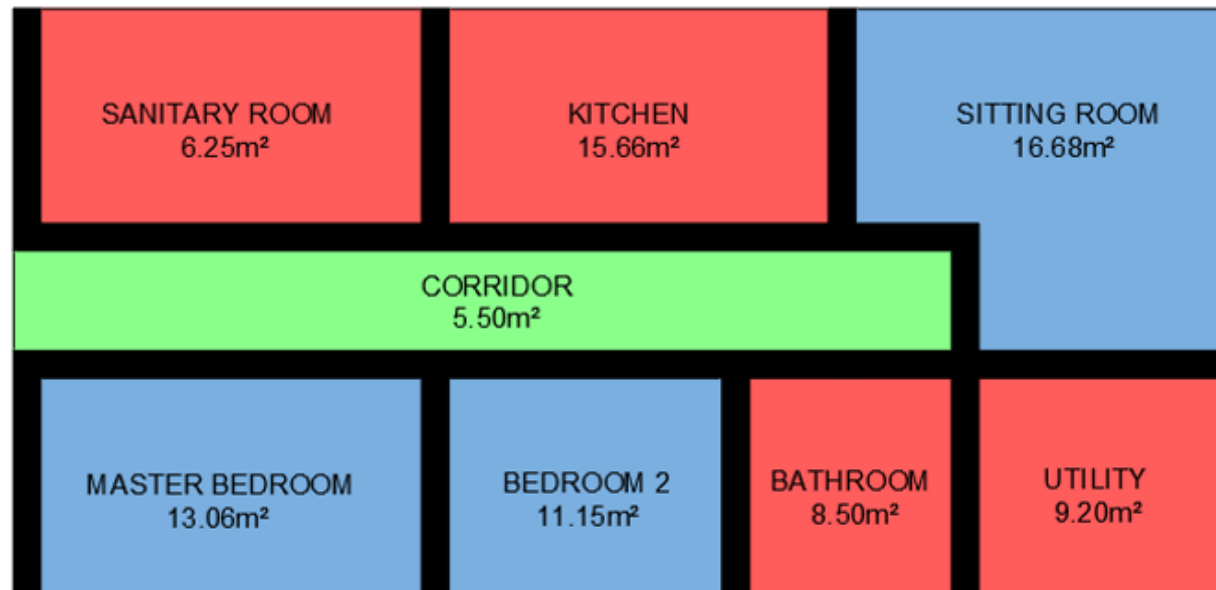


Image Source: WWETB

What area of background ventilators are required to comply with Regulations?



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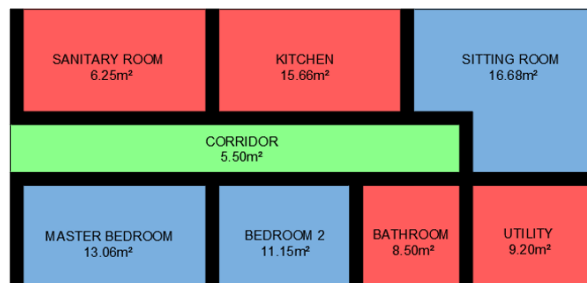
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Case Study – Natural Ventilation Requirements



Stage	Description	Ventilation Requirement
1. Minimum background ventilation	Minimum total equivalent area of background ventilators	42,000mm ²
2. Additional ventilation based on floor area	Because this dwelling has a TFA greater than 70m ² additional ventilation is required. TFA (86) – 70 = 16	7,000mm ²
3. Additional ventilation based on single storey dwellings	For single storey dwellings situated at ground level or on any storey up to four storeys, an additional 7,000mm ² per dwelling should be provided	7,000mm ²
Total		56,000mm ²

Similar equivalent areas of vents should be distributed on opposite sides of the dwelling to maximise cross ventilation.

In this case the following would be appropriate:

Kitchen – 8,000mm²

Bathroom – 8,000mm²

Utility – 8,000mm²

Sanatory room – 8,000mm²

Sitting room – 8,000mm²

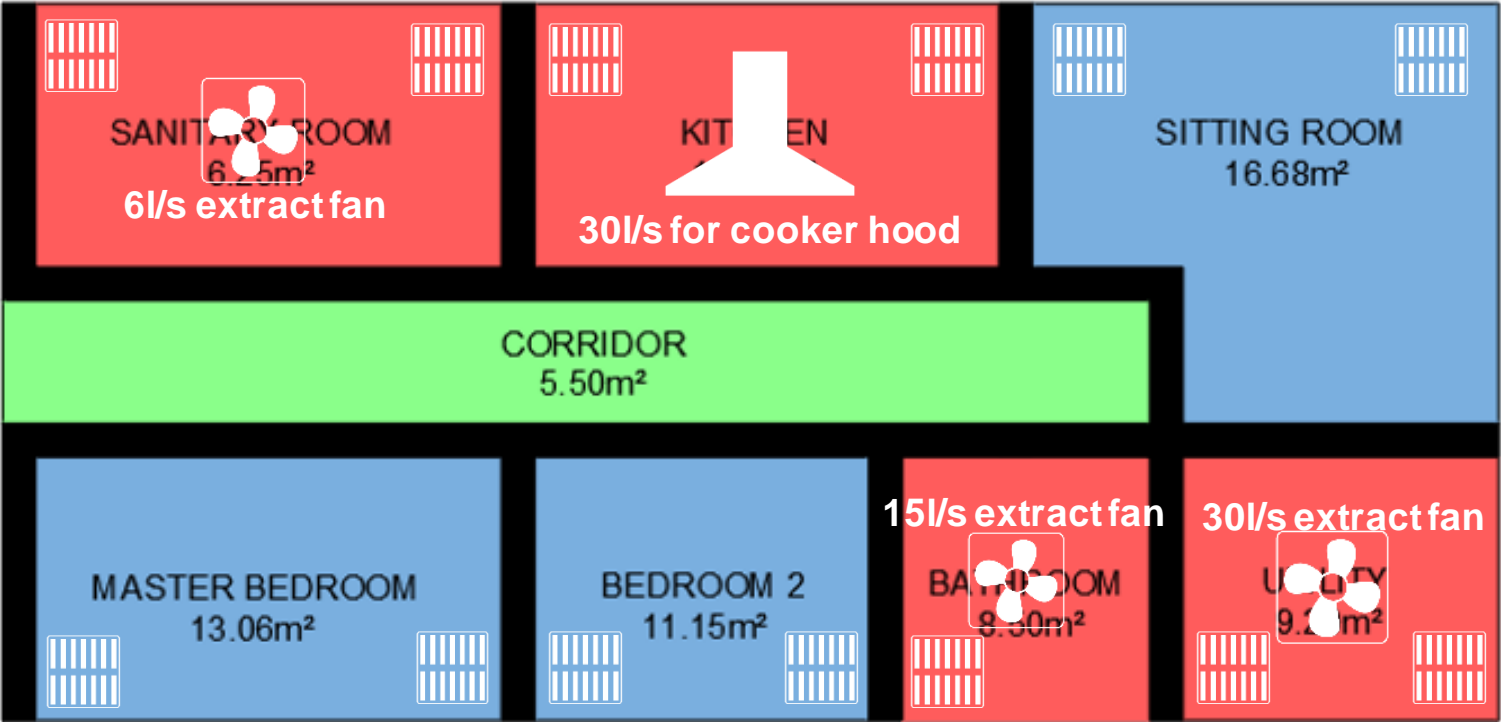
Master bedroom – 8,000mm²

Bedroom 2 – 8,000mm²

Corridor – No ventilation required



Case Study – Natural Ventilation Requirements





Sample Trickle Vent:

- Length 265 mm Height 18 mm
- Equivalent Area 1,700 mm²



Sample Hole-in-the-wall Vent:

- 125 mm diameter (5")
- Equivalent Area 6,500 mm²



Swiss Cheese House



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Naturally ventilated homes will need a lot more background ventilators than you think!



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Centralised Continuous Mechanical Extract Ventilation (CCMEV)

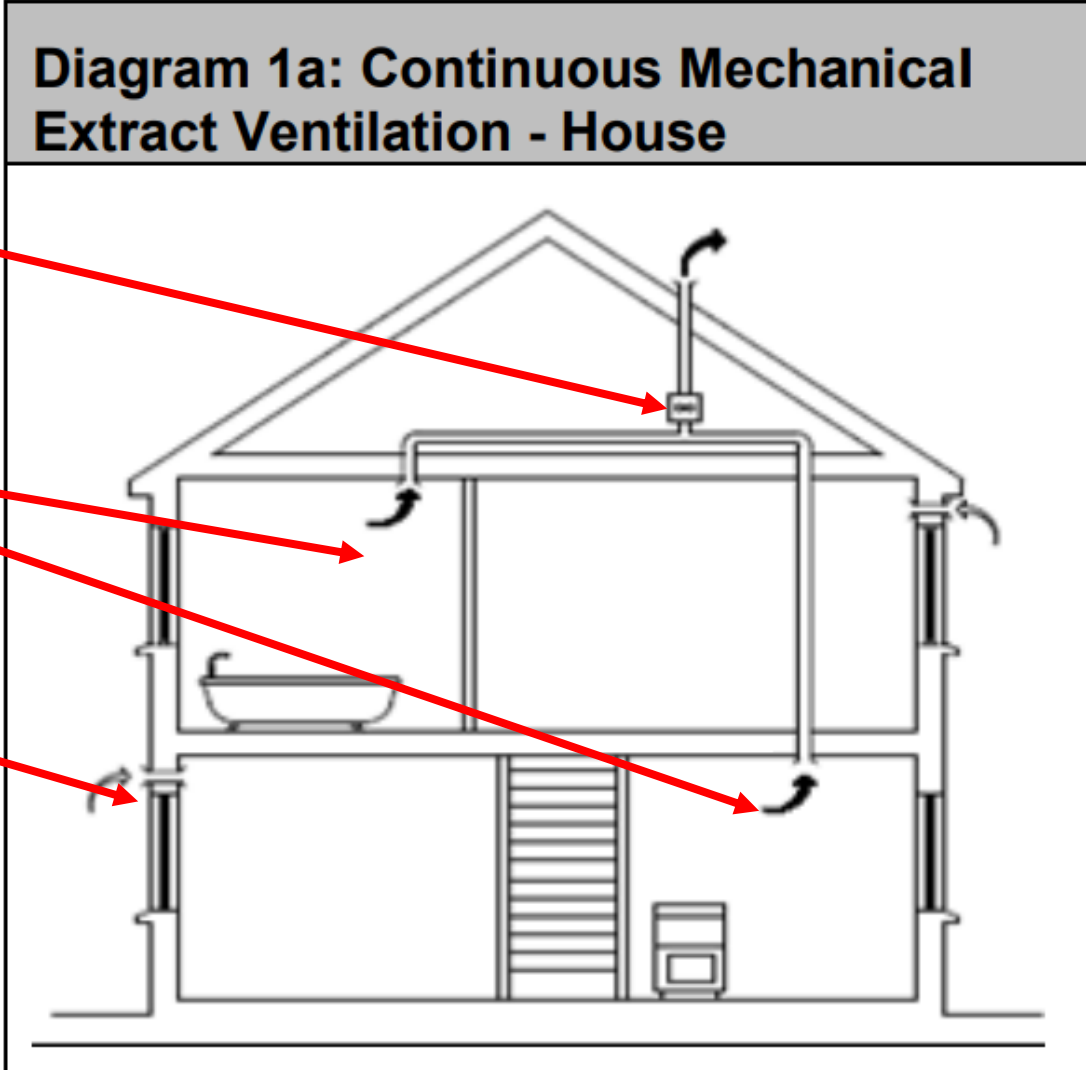


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Extract fan operates
continuously

Wet rooms ducted
to the extract fan

Habitable rooms
ventilated through
hole-in the wall or
trickle vents



Energy Efficiency for Construction:
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Image Source:
Department of Housing, Planning and Local
Government Ireland

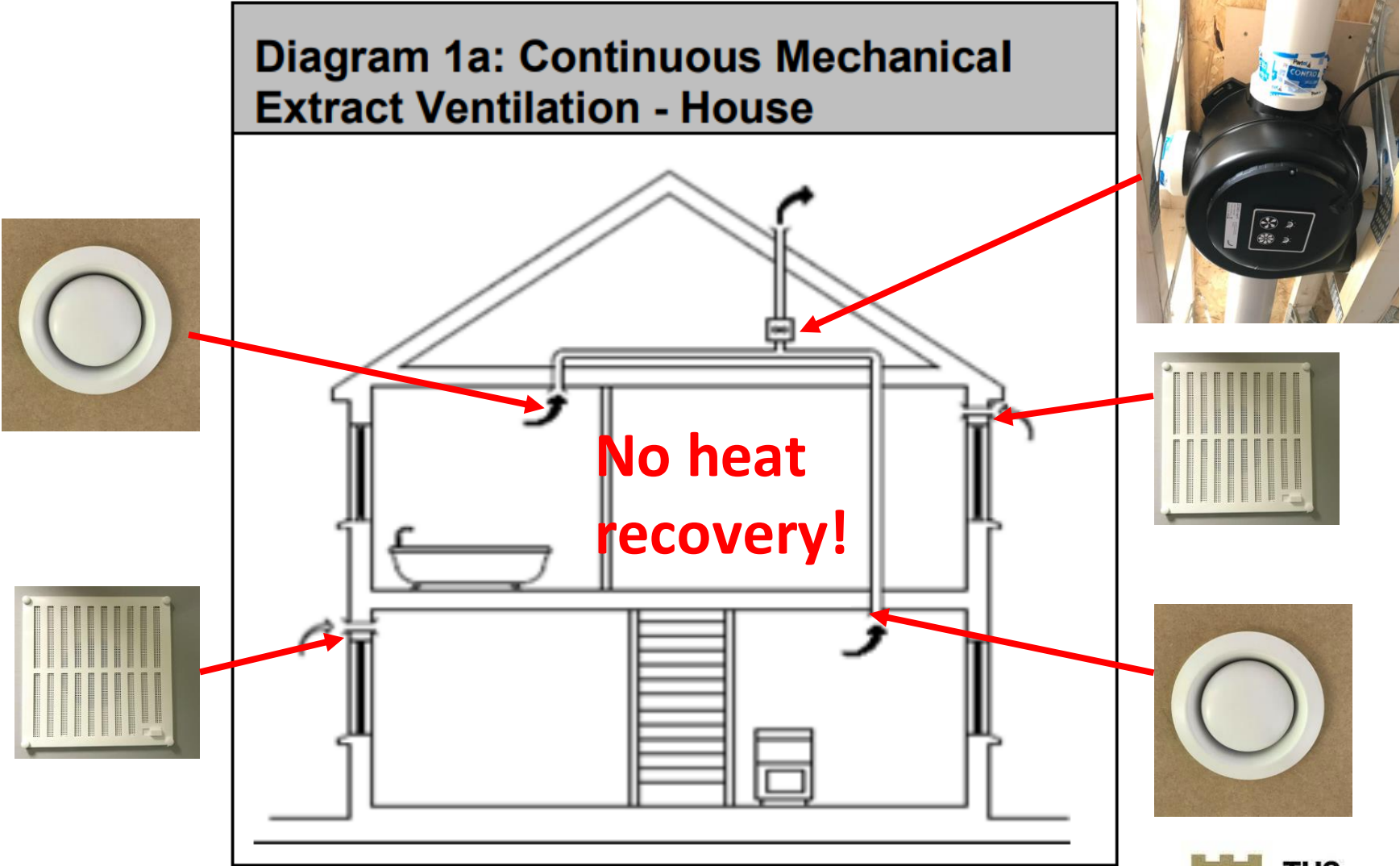
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Centralised Continuous Mechanical Extract Ventilation (CCMEV)



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Issues with Continuous Extract Ventilation (CEV)



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Warm air is exhausted from the building,
with no heat recovered.



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Continuous Mechanical Extract Ventilation - CMEV Video



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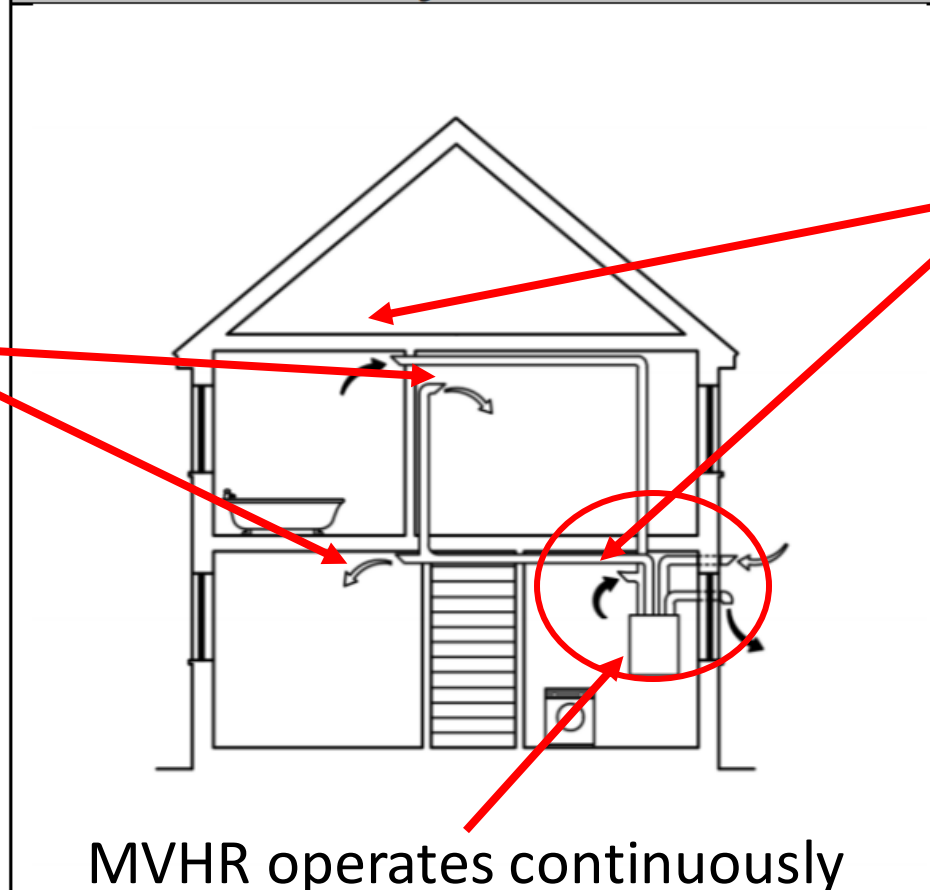


Mechanical ventilation with Heat Recovery (MVHR)



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**Diagram 2a: Mechanical ventilation
with heat recovery – House**



Habitable rooms
all connected to
supply air ducts

Wet rooms are all
connected to exhaust
air ducts

The MVHR unit is
located:

- Inside the thermal envelope
- On/close to an external wall



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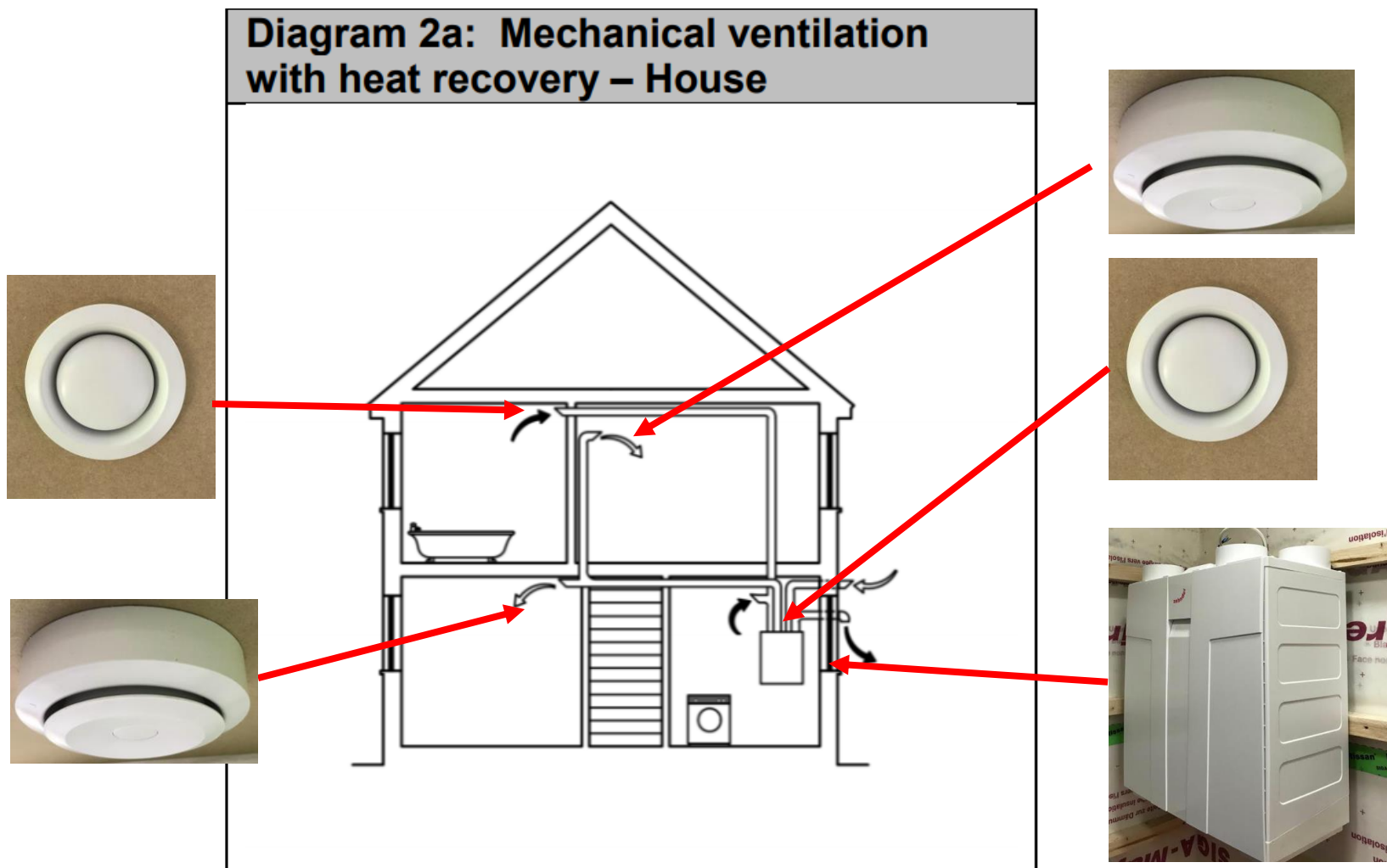


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**Diagram 2a: Mechanical ventilation
with heat recovery – House**



Correctly Locating the MVHR



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- MVHR located adjacent to exterior wall ensuring minimal length of cold air ducts
- Positioned at comfortable height for changing filters
- Plenty of room for condensate drain to bottom (yet to be fitted)
- Could have left more room to right hand side for internal finishes



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Ventilation

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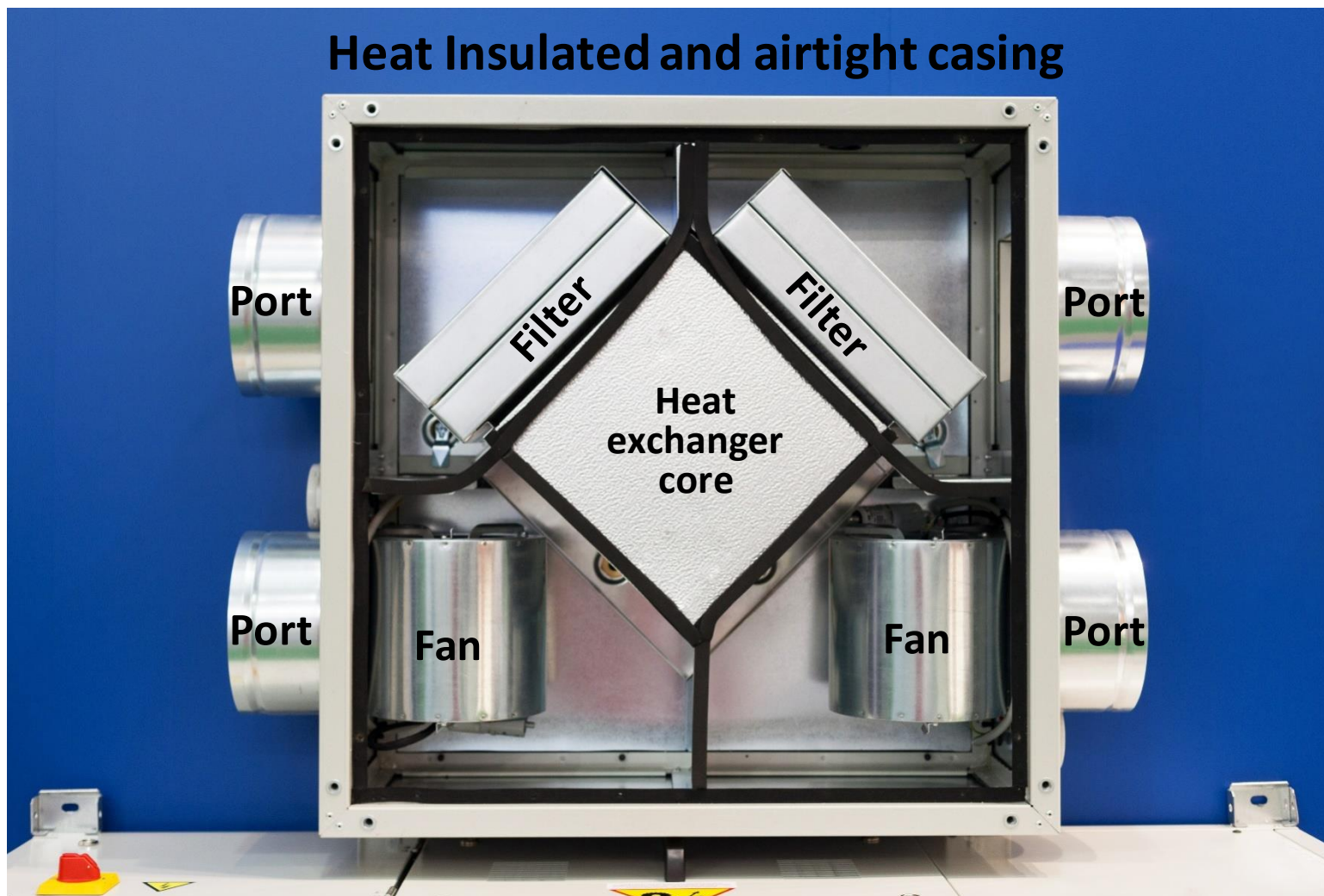
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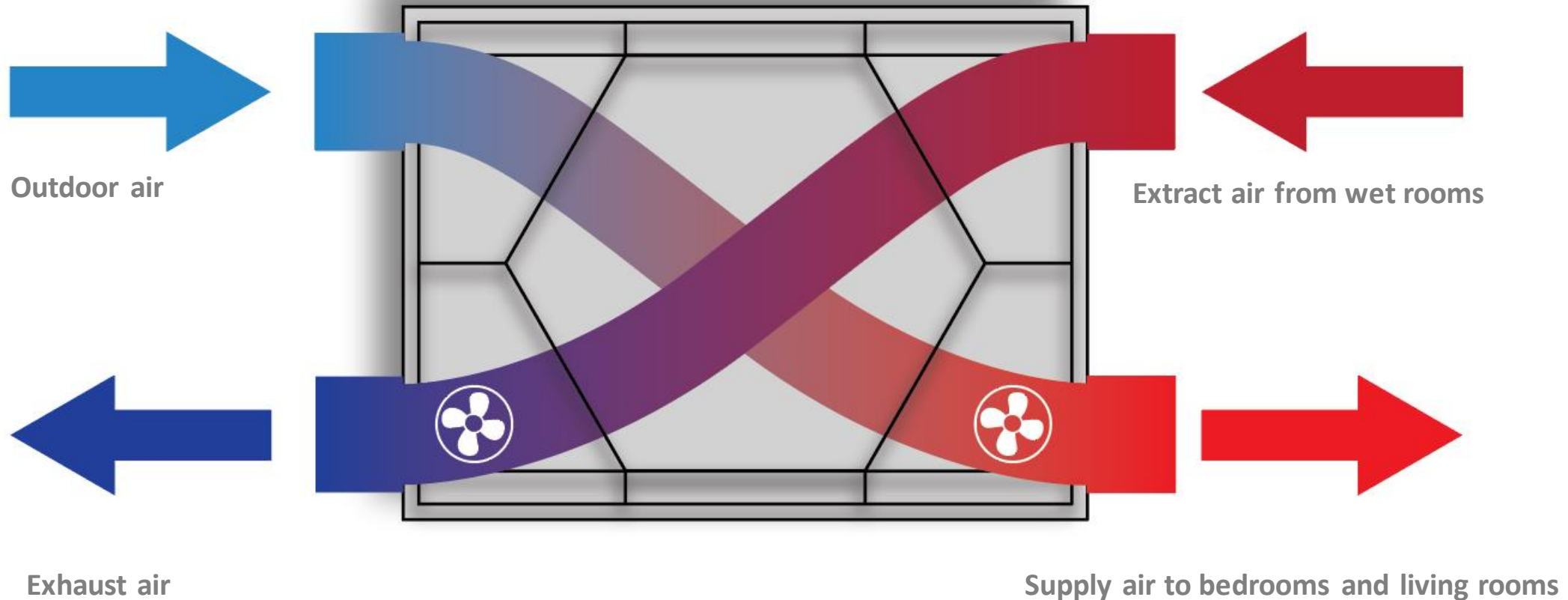
Anatomy of an MVHR



Heat Exchanger in MVHR Recovers >85% Heat



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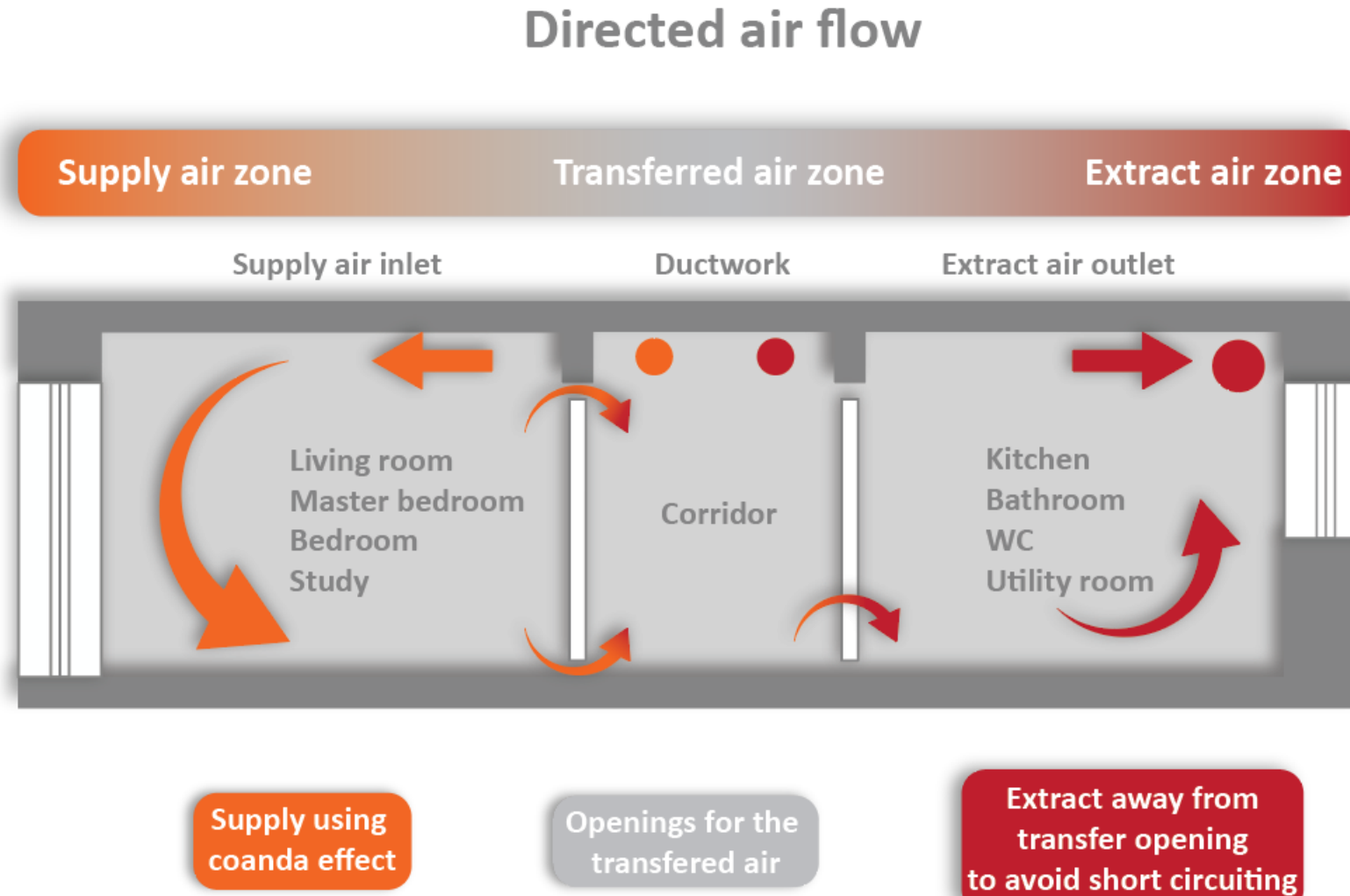
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MVHR with Cross Flow Ventilation



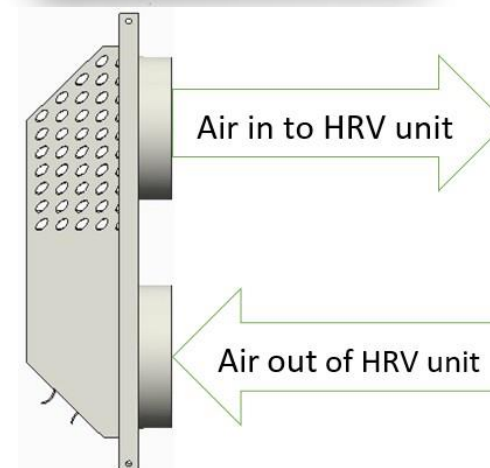
Avoid Cross-Contamination between Exhaust Air and Intake Air



Recommended separation: 2m



ProAir FEX
Terminal –
safely
combines
both!



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Ventilation System Quality Control



Filters must be changed regularly. Clogged filters will reduce indoor air quality and increase fan power



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Mechanical Ventilation with Heat Recovery - MVHR Video



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Demand Control Ventilation (DCV)



- Centralised exhaust fan operates continuously
- Extract rate adjusted according to relative humidity (can also remotely boost if needed)
- Supply vents in bedrooms and living rooms adjust depending on need



Demand Control Ventilation (DCV)



Humidity sensitive strip

Supply vents adjust to meet demand



Standard Humidity



High Humidity



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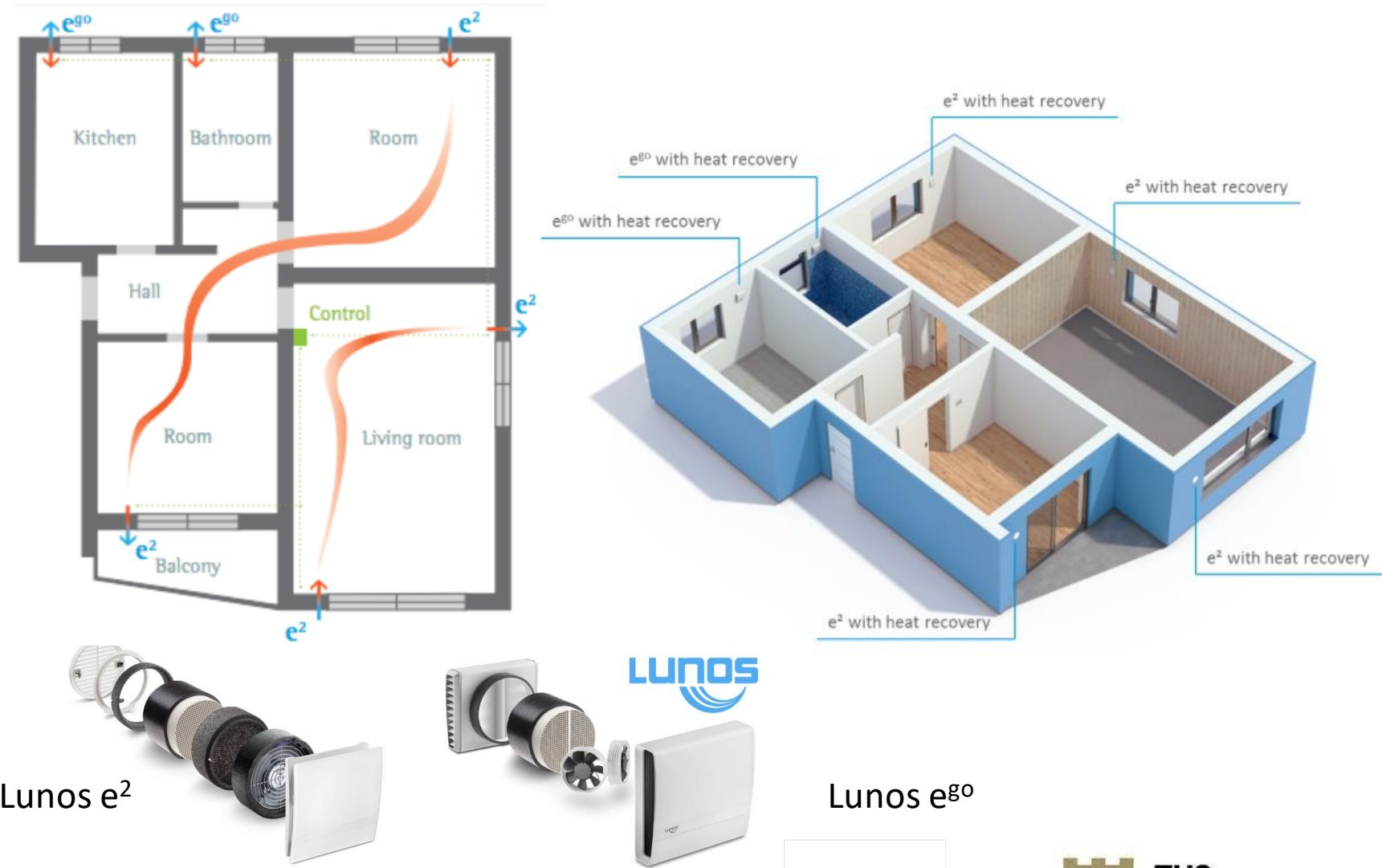
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Decentralised MVHR - Lunos



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Decentralised Ventilation



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Decentralised Ventilation

- minimum two systems are needed
- every 70 seconds reversion of the air direction
- the ceramic element allows heat to be recovered
- No centralised unit – no need for plant room
- No ducting required
 - Fire compartments can be maintained
 - No dropped ceilings
 - Easier to retrofit
 - Reduced risk of reduced airflow due to poor duct installation



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Cross Ventilation



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- In all ventilation strategies, including natural ventilation, provision must be made to allow cross ventilation between rooms
- To ensure good transfer of air throughout the dwelling, there should be an undercut of minimum area 7600 mm^2 in all internal doors above the floor finish
- This is equivalent to an undercut of 10 mm for a standard 760 mm width door. Transfer grills are an alternative method of facilitating cross ventilation.
- The above requirement must be provided above finished floor level.



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3. Ventilation Strategy



- Where an MVHR or similar is provided, precautions should be taken to ensure that it will **not contribute to fire spread** or endanger the enclosure to any stairway, particularly protected stairways
- It is not recommended to connect **cooker hoods to MVHR**. Where cooker hoods are connected the guidance under fire precautions in National Regulations should be followed.



Openings for ducts which pass through an element which serves as a barrier to the passage of fire should be:

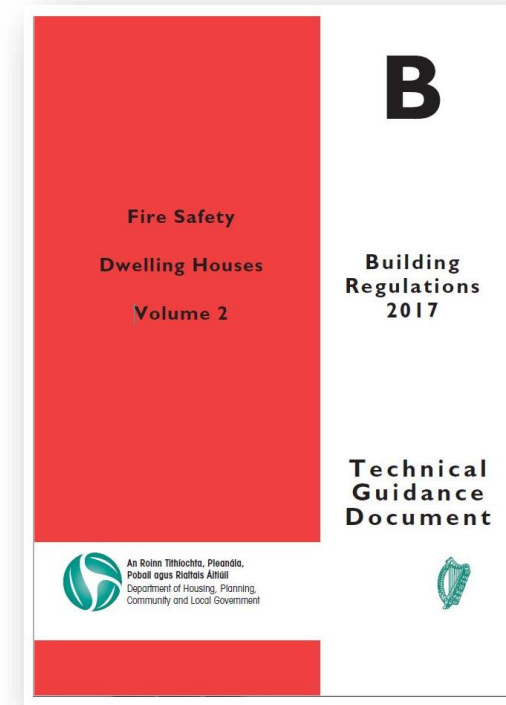
- Kept as few in number as possible
- Kept as small as practicable
- Fire-stopped



- Where an MVHR or similar is provided, precautions should be taken to ensure that it will **not contribute to fire spread** or endanger the enclosure to any stairway, particularly protected stairways
- It is not recommended to connect **cooker hoods to MVHR**. Where cooker hoods are connected the guidance under fire precautions in BRE Digest 398 “Continuous mechanical ventilation in dwellings” should be followed.

Openings for ducts which pass through an element which serves as a barrier to the passage of fire should be:

- Kept as few in number as possible
- Kept as small as practicable
- Fire-stopped



BS 9991: 2015 Fire Safety in the Design, Management and use of Residential Buildings: Section 6, paragraph 35, contains appropriate guidance on these measures. (see also S3- Internal Fire Spread).

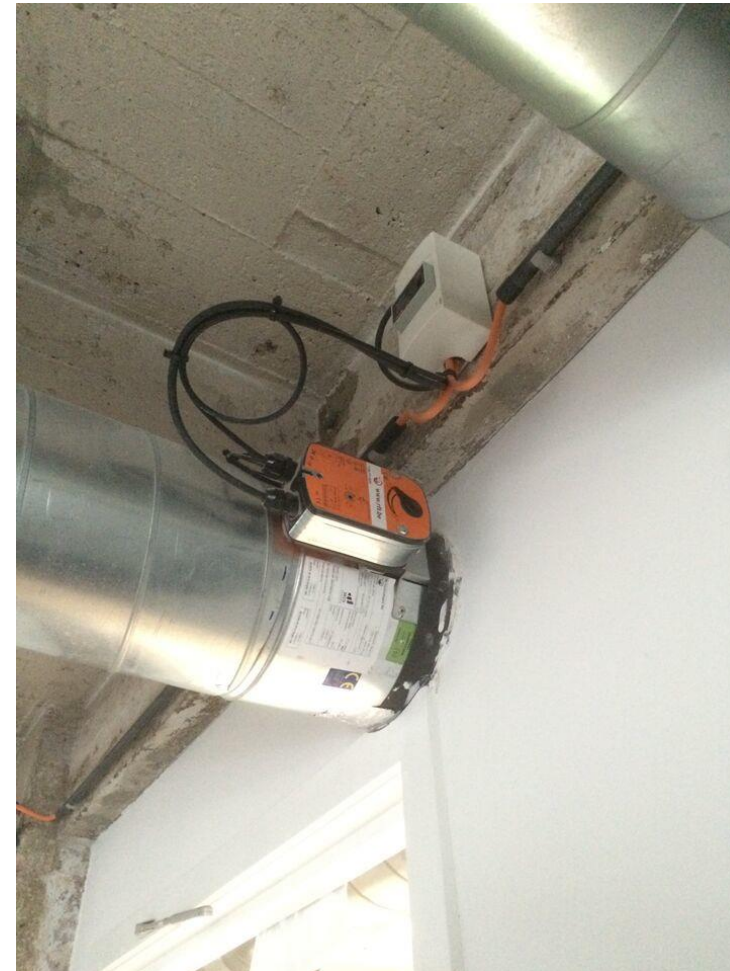


Fire Dampers



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- **Compartmentalisation** is used to inhibit the spread of fire and smoke in a building with fire rated separations such as fire walls
- When penetrating these walls with ventilation duct, the **integrity of their ratings** can be sustained by the use of fire dampers, smoke dampers or combination fire/smoke dampers.
- Different damper types perform different functions and are tested, **installed, operated and maintained differently**



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Fire: Compliance Video



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Noise Generated by Ventilation System

- Be aware of **potential nuisance** for occupants caused by noise from ventilation system
- Affected by the **design** of ducts and fittings as well as **mounting**
- Consider use of **sound attenuators** to mitigate noise
- If noise levels frustrate occupants, there is a **risk that they will shut it off** – which would have significant impact on indoor air quality

Room type	Noise thresholds
Noise sensitive rooms (such as bedrooms and living rooms)	$\leq 30 \text{ dB } L_{AeqT}$
Less noise sensitive rooms (such as kitchens and bathrooms)	$\leq 35 \text{ dB } L_{AeqT}$



Ventilation systems must be:

- Designed (*Nationally Approved*)
- Installed (*Nationally Approved*)
- Balanced (*Nationally Approved*)
- Commissioned (*Nationally Approved*)
- Independently Validated (*National Standards or IBAN*)





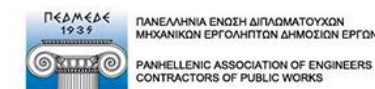


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