

Frequently Asked Questions Energy Recovery Ventilator

1. What is the main benefit of an ERV?

It constantly supplies fresh air to provide a healthy indoor environment by reducing odors and/or indoor pollutants, such as radon, formaldehyde, tobacco smoke, nitrogen dioxides, carbon monoxide, and pesticides.

2. How does an ERV (Energy Recovery Ventilator) function?

Fresh air is constantly brought into the home by the system and a like amount of stale indoor air is exhausted at the same time; in other words, the same amount of air is being exchanged. However, the hot or cold energy (depending on the season) is extracted from the indoor air before it's exhausted and transferred to the incoming air, so that there is little energy lost.

3. What is the difference between an HRV (Heat Recovery Ventilator) and an ERV?

Heat recovery ventilators will transfer temperature only from the high temperature air to the low temperature air. Energy recovery ventilators transfer both temperature and moisture. Since transferring both temperature and moisture has benefits in both winter and summer, ERV's are a better choice in all but the most northern climates for providing year round fresh air to the home.

4. Can an ERV be installed in an existing home, as well as a new home?

Yes, it can be installed in any home and become an integral part of the heating and air conditioning system. Your heating and air conditioning contractor can furnish specific details for your home.

5. Is a special type of heating or cooling system necessary in order to use an ERV?

No, an ERV can be utilized with any forced air system equipped with a blower and duct system. It can also be used with non-forced air systems as an independent system.

6. Can I use an ERV year 'round?

Yes, you can keep your home closed and operate the ERV constantly, efficiently producing a fresh and secure environment.

7. How often is it necessary to service an ERV?

We recommend about every six months. The simple procedures are fully described on the instructions provided with each unit. These maintenance procedures can be completed by you or your contractor, if you desire. Here are the general maintenance activities:

- Clean the permanent filters and re-coat with adhesive as necessary.
- Clean energy transfer core by lightly vacuuming with a soft brush attachment.
- Check the fresh air intake vent and clean as necessary.

8. Will an ERV help reduce radon and odors in the home?

Yes, although it's difficult to quote specific efficiencies for each type of pollutant. The fact that stale indoor air is constantly being replaced by fresh outside air is your assurance that this is taking place.