

Domestic Ventilation Compliance Guide **(DVCG)**

The Domestic Ventilation Compliance Guide (DVCG) is a crucial document in the UK house building and retrofit sectors, providing comprehensive guidance on the installation and performance of ventilation systems in domestic properties. The DVCG outlines the legal requirements and best practices for ensuring adequate ventilation, which is essential for maintaining indoor air quality and preventing issues such as condensation, mould growth, and the accumulation of pollutants.

The DVCG serves as a reference for builders, architects, and contractors, detailing the standards that must be met to comply with the Building Regulations in England and Wales. It covers various types of ventilation systems, including natural, mechanical, and hybrid systems, and provides specific recommendations for their design, installation, and maintenance.

For example, the guide specifies the minimum ventilation rates required for different types of rooms, such as kitchens and bathrooms, which are typically higher due to the presence of moisture and pollutants. It also addresses the importance of ensuring that ventilation systems are correctly sized and positioned to effectively remove stale air and introduce fresh air into the living space.

In practice, adherence to the DVCG can significantly impact the health and comfort of occupants. For instance, a case study involving a newly built residential development in London highlighted how the implementation of the DVCG led to improved indoor air quality and reduced complaints from residents regarding dampness and odours. The project incorporated a balanced mechanical ventilation system with heat recovery, which not only met the compliance requirements but also enhanced energy efficiency by reducing heating costs.

The DVCG emphasises the need for regular maintenance and inspection of ventilation systems to ensure they continue to operate effectively over time. This is particularly relevant in retrofit projects, where existing buildings may require upgrades to their ventilation systems to meet modern standards.”