

# What does Continuous Operation Mean?

**The uninterrupted running of mechanical ventilation devices, such as Continuous Mechanical Extract Ventilation (MEV) or Mechanical Ventilation with Heat Recovery (MVHR), in residential buildings.**

Continuous operation refers to the ongoing, uninterrupted functioning of mechanical ventilation systems designed to maintain indoor air quality by removing pollutants, moisture, and stale air. The airflow rate may vary under manual or automatic control to respond to specific demands, such as high humidity or pollutant levels.

In the UK residential retrofit and new-build sectors, continuous operation is a cornerstone of effective ventilation strategies. It ensures that indoor air quality is maintained consistently, reducing the risk of condensation, mould growth, and the accumulation of harmful pollutants. For example, MVHR systems operate continuously to extract stale air while recovering heat from the outgoing air stream, improving energy efficiency.

## **Practical Examples:**

1. **MVHR Systems:** In a newly built UK home, an MVHR system operates continuously to provide fresh air while retaining heat, complying with Part F of the Building Regulations (Ventilation).
2. **MEV Systems:** In a retrofit project, continuous MEV is installed in kitchens and bathrooms to remove moisture and odours, preventing damp and mould issues.

**Synonyms:** Continuous Ventilation, Uninterrupted Ventilation

## **Related Terms:**

1. **Mechanical Ventilation with Heat Recovery (MVHR):** A system that provides continuous ventilation while recovering heat from extracted air.
2. **Continuous Mechanical Extract Ventilation (MEV):** A system that continuously extracts air from wet rooms to maintain air quality.
3. **Part F of the Building Regulations:** The UK regulation governing ventilation requirements in residential buildings.
4. **Indoor Air Quality (IAQ):** The quality of air within and around buildings, particularly concerning occupant health and comfort.
5. **Approved Document F:** The official guidance document supporting Part F of the Building Regulations.
6. **Demand-Controlled Ventilation (DCV):** A system that adjusts ventilation rates based on real-time indoor air quality data.
7. **Condensation Control:** Strategies to prevent condensation, often achieved through continuous ventilation.