

What is Boost Speed?

Boost Speed refers to the higher extraction rate provided by continuous ventilation units, designed to rapidly remove moisture and pollutants from indoor spaces during periods of heightened activity, such as showering or cooking. This mode complements the lower, continuous extraction rate (known as Trickle Speed) that operates during normal conditions.

In the UK residential building sector, Boost Speed is a critical feature of Mechanical Ventilation with Heat Recovery (MVHR) systems and extractor fans. It ensures compliance with Part F of the Building Regulations (Ventilation), which mandates effective moisture control to prevent condensation and mould growth. Approved Document F provides specific guidance on extraction rates for different scenarios, such as 15 litres per second (l/s) for bathrooms and 30 l/s for kitchens.

Practical Example:

In a retrofit project, a homeowner installs an MVHR unit in their bathroom. During normal use, the unit operates at a Trickle Speed of 5 l/s to maintain air quality. When the shower is turned on, the Boost Speed automatically increases to 15 l/s to quickly remove steam and prevent condensation buildup on walls and mirrors.

Synonyms:

- High Extraction Mode
- Rapid Ventilation Rate

Related Terms:

1. **Trickle Speed:** The continuous, low-level extraction rate used during normal conditions to maintain indoor air quality.
2. **Mechanical Ventilation with Heat Recovery (MVHR):** A system that provides controlled ventilation while recovering heat from extracted air to improve energy efficiency.
3. **Air Change Rate:** The rate at which indoor air is replaced with fresh air, typically measured in air changes per hour (ACH).
4. **Condensation Control:** Measures taken to reduce moisture buildup on surfaces, often achieved through effective ventilation.
5. **Building Regulations Part F:** UK regulations governing ventilation requirements in residential buildings.
6. **Approved Document F:** The official guidance document accompanying Part F of the Building Regulations, detailing ventilation standards.
7. **Extractor Fan:** A device used to remove stale air and moisture from specific rooms, such as bathrooms and kitchens.