

What is Extract Ventilation?

Extract ventilation refers to the process of removing air directly from an internal space or spaces to the outside. This can be achieved through natural means (e.g., passive vents) or mechanical means (e.g., extract fans or centralised systems). Extract ventilation is essential for maintaining indoor air quality by removing pollutants, moisture, and odours, particularly in areas such as kitchens, bathrooms, and utility rooms.

In the UK house building, residential retrofit, and home renovation sectors, extract ventilation is a critical component of compliance with **Building Regulations Part F (Ventilation)** and the associated **Approved Document F**. These regulations ensure that homes are adequately ventilated to prevent issues such as condensation, mould growth, and poor indoor air quality.

Practical Examples:

1. **Kitchens:** Mechanical extract fans are often installed above cookers to remove steam, grease, and odours generated during cooking.
2. **Bathrooms:** Extract fans are used to remove moisture from showers and baths, reducing the risk of mould and damp.
3. **Utility Rooms:** Extract ventilation helps remove humidity from washing machines and tumble dryers, preventing condensation.

Synonyms:

- Exhaust ventilation
- Air extraction

Related Terms:

1. **Whole-House Ventilation:** A system designed to provide consistent airflow throughout a property, often combining extract and supply ventilation.
2. **Positive Input Ventilation (PIV):** A system that introduces fresh air into a property to improve air quality and reduce humidity.
3. **Mechanical Ventilation with Heat Recovery (MVHR):** A system that extracts stale air while recovering heat from it and supplying fresh, filtered air.
4. **Passive Stack Ventilation:** A natural ventilation system that uses stack effect to draw air through the building.
5. **Intermittent Extract Ventilation:** Mechanical extract fans that operate only when needed, such as during cooking or bathing.
6. **Continuous Extract Ventilation:** Mechanical systems that operate continuously to maintain air quality.
7. **Building Regulations Part F:** The UK regulation governing ventilation requirements in residential buildings.