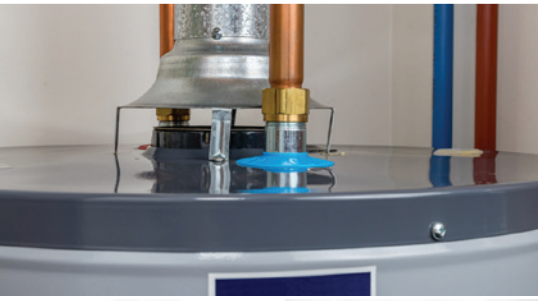


Indoor Environmental Quality



A person's health and wellbeing is significantly effected by the quality of the air they breathe in their homes and offices and is contingent upon many factors. Whether they are being exposed to mold, mildew, or other harmful pollutants directly or via migration from a contaminated area, the quality of the ventilation system, and even the functional design of a building, play a critical role. Building characteristics such as cleanliness and ventilation are extremely important. If an indoor environment is damp, moldy, or has poor ventilation, respiratory illness or other health issues could occur. That is why controlling and maintaining a healthy, contaminant-free indoor environment is crucial.

FEATURES

BENEFITS

<p>Combustion equipment in conditioned space is either power-vented or direct vented. For example, your hot water heater or microwave</p>	<p>Power vented or directed vented combustion equipment helps ensure occupants are not exposed to pollutants from the combustion process, such as carbon monoxide.</p>
<p>Airflow between the garage and the home is effectively blocked</p>	<p>Besides fumes from the car exhaust, garages often contain other hazardous chemicals such as paint thinner, gasoline, and pesticides that may migrate into the home. Separating the dwelling area with good air sealing will greatly reduce the possibility of pollutants from the garage contaminating the home's interior.</p>
<p>Use of carpeting, padding, hard surface flooring, wall coverings, kitchen cabinets, insulation, sealants and adhesives that have low emissions of VOCs</p>	<p>Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are pollutants. Homes constructed with low VOC products limit emissions of those pollutants in the home and can contribute to improved air quality.</p>
<p>Ventilation is provided in those areas of the home where it can be particularly beneficial, such as in bathrooms, kitchens, and near clothes dryers. One Energy Star fan is installed in each home to move air multiple times throughout the day</p>	<p>Fans remove indoor air pollutants, such as excess moisture and cooking vapors, to help improve the indoor air quality.</p>
<p>Radon control measures are installed</p>	<p>Radon is a naturally occurring gas found in soil and rock that is believed to cause health issues. Homes built to resist Radon from entering can protect the occupants from the effects of Radon in the home</p>
<p>HVAC system protection measures are taken during construction</p>	<p>Protecting a home's air handling equipment and ducts from construction pollutants, such as drywall dust, helps ensure that the equipment will operate efficiently without spreading those pollutants once the occupants move in.</p>
<p>Plumbing lines are not installed in the exterior wall cavities to minimize the risk of freezing and bursting</p>	<p>Frozen water pipes can burst causing water damage and leading to mold, which can be costly and time-consuming to repair. Homes with pipes within interior walls eliminate the risk that pipes will freeze and burst.</p>