

U.S. Department of Energy - Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
A Consumer's Guide to Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
Whole-House Ventilation

The decision to use whole-house ventilation is typically motivated by concerns that natural ventilation won't provide adequate air quality, even with source control by spot ventilation.

Whole-house ventilation systems provide controlled, uniform ventilation throughout a house. These systems use one or more fans and duct systems to exhaust stale air and/or supply fresh air to the house. There are four types of systems:

- **Exhaust ventilation systems**
Force inside air out of a home.
- **Supply ventilation systems**
Force outside air into the home.
- **Balanced ventilation systems**
Force equal amounts quantities of air into and out of the home.
- **Energy recovery ventilation systems**
Transfer heat from incoming or outgoing air to minimize energy loss.