

ASHRAE 62.2 FACTSheet

What is ASHRAE?

The American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) is a global society advancing human well-being through sustainable technology for the built environment. It was founded in 1894 and focuses on building systems, energy efficiency, indoor air quality, refrigeration and sustainability within the industry. Through research, standards writing, publishing and continuing education, ASHRAE helps to shape the construction industry..

What is ASHRAE Standard 62.2 and what does it include?

ASHRAE 62.2 “Ventilation and Acceptable Indoor Air Quality in Low-Rise Residential Buildings” Standard is a national standard that provides minimum requirements and methods for achieving acceptable indoor air quality in residences. It was developed by ASHRAE and has the following components:

- Using Whole House Ventilation to exhaust stale indoor air and replace it with fresh outdoor air.
- Using Local Exhaust to remove high levels of contaminants and moisture typically associated with cooking, bathrooms, etc.
- Using Source Control to prevent outside contaminates from entering the home.
- Labeling controls.
- Air sealing recessed light fixtures.
- Venting dryers, kitchen and bathroom exhaust fans to outdoors.
- Continuous fans sound rated at one sone or less.
- Intermittent fans sound rated at three sones or less.
- Satisfying intake air filtration requirements.

What does this mean for my home?

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) started requiring compliance with ASHRAE 62.2 in 2012. As such, all homes weatherized using DOE funding must:

- Be evaluated for and meet ASHRAE 62.2 ventilation requirements.

- Have existing fans and air distribution systems evaluated for compliance.
- Have fan flow metering and follow-up testing completed to ensure compliance.
- Ensure clients are informed on the function, use, and maintenance of ventilation systems and components.
- Understand moisture sources and control in a weatherized house to help to minimize the potential for mold and durability concerns.

How does ASHRAE 62.2 benefit me?

Improper ventilation in a home can cause mold and reduce the home’s indoor air quality. Historically residential ventilation was not considered a major concern because it was believed operable windows and envelope leakage provided enough outside air in homes, but in new construction and in home weatherization building envelopes have gotten increasingly tighter. Additionally people are understanding progressively more about the importance of good indoor air quality. Consider that people spend, on average, nearly 90% of their time indoors, with the majority of that time in their homes. And EPA studies show that indoor levels of many pollutants can be two to five times greater than in the outdoor levels.

ASHRAE Standard 62.2 Disclaimer

Weatherizing a home nearly always involves “tightening up” a home to reduce the loss of heated and/or cooled air to the outside. However, in the past, determining how tight a house should be without negatively impacting indoor air quality (IAQ), has been part of the challenge of weatherization. Implementing ASHRAE 62.2 provides a Standard for calculating the required air movement based on both floor space and number of occupants and also looks at the capacity to remove contaminants (including moisture) from the bath and kitchen and other areas of the home, taking into account accidental ventilation from infiltration. However, implementation of the ASHRAE 62.2 Standard does not account for high polluting sources or guarantee indoor air quality.

