

Q: What is the purpose of a make-up air intake system?

A: Make-up air is fresh, outdoor air that is introduced into a building to replace the air that is removed by exhaust systems like range hoods, bathroom fans, or whole-building ventilation systems.

Q: Why would I need a make-up air intake system?

A: Without makeup air, powerful exhaust systems create negative pressure, which can pull polluted air from attics, garages, or crawlspaces into the living space and also cause backdrafting issues with combustion appliances.

Q: Do all homes need make-up air?

A: Not always, but yes in some cases such as: Newer, tightly sealed homes. Homes with large kitchen range hoods. Houses with multiple exhaust appliances running at once.

Q: When would a make-up air intake system be required?

A: Building codes typically require makeup air when exhaust systems (especially kitchen range hoods) have a capacity exceeding a certain threshold, often 400 CFM. Code requirement may increase for higher CFM exhaust fans.

Q: Can make-up air save energy?

A: Indirectly, yes. Without it, your HVAC system may work harder to compensate for pressure imbalances. Properly installed make-up air can improve efficiency.

Q: Is the incoming air conditioned?

A: Some make-up air intake systems integrate with the HVAC system, but a passive system can be installed to bring fresh air directly into a space while also utilizing an optional filter.