



Whole-House Mechanical Ventilation Guidelines

With the adoption of the 2021 IECC, Section R403.6 of the 2021 IECC requires mechanical ventilation with automatic or gravity dampers that close when the ventilation system is not operating at outdoor air intakes and exhausts. The mechanical ventilation system must comply with M1505 in the 2024 IRC.

- Section M1505.4.1 states that “Outdoor air ducts connected to the return side of an air handler shall be considered as providing supply ventilation”.
- Alternatively, ventilation rates shall be in accordance with 2024 IRC section M1505.4.3. Table M1505.4.3(1) for continuous ventilation or Table M1505.4.3(2) for intermittent ventilation shall be used to calculate airflow rates for the system. These tables address the following mechanical ventilation systems:
 - Exhaust only
 - Supply only
 - Balanced systems (supply and exhaust)
 - HRV or ERV

For an explanation and the pros and cons of different types of mechanical ventilation systems, see the following pages from www.energy.gov: