



FREE HOMEOWNER'S GUIDE

Ventilation Quick Guide

What good ventilation actually looks like, what it costs, and how to tell if your home needs it.

A lot of Waikato homes feel cold, damp or stuffy not because the heating is wrong, but because the ventilation is wrong. This short guide explains - in plain English - what ventilation actually does, the main system types you'll see quoted, what they cost, and the simple signs that tell you whether your home needs one.

What ventilation is (and isn't)

- Ventilation moves stale, moist indoor air out and brings drier, fresher air in. It is not heating, and it is not air conditioning.
- Good ventilation is what stops condensation on your windows, mould around the curtains, and that 'closed-up' smell in winter.
- It also matters in summer - a well-ventilated home flushes out the day's heat overnight.

Signs your home needs better ventilation

- Condensation on the inside of windows most winter mornings.
- Mould spots on ceilings, around window frames, or in wardrobes.
- The house smells damp or stale when you've been out for the day.
- Washing takes days to dry indoors.
- Anyone in the house has worsening asthma, allergies or a persistent cough through winter.

The main system types

- Positive pressure (PPV): draws filtered, drier air from the roof cavity and gently pushes it through the home. Best for older, draughtier homes with damp problems. Lower cost.
- Balanced pressure with heat recovery (HRV-style): brings fresh outdoor air in, sends stale indoor air out, and recovers heat from the outgoing air. Best for newer, well-sealed homes. Higher cost, lower running cost.
- Extract-only (bathroom and kitchen fans): the cheapest option, and a must-have in wet rooms - but on its own, usually not enough to fix a damp home.

Indicative costs

- Positive pressure system, supplied and installed: typically \$2,500 - \$4,500 depending on house size and roof access.
- Balanced pressure / heat recovery system, supplied and installed: typically \$6,500 - \$12,000+.
- Quality bathroom/kitchen extract upgrades: \$400 - \$900 per fan installed.
- Get at least two written quotes, and make sure the kW or air-change rate is stated, not just 'a system'.

COMMON MISTAKES TO AVOID

- Pairing a brand-new heat pump with a leaky, unventilated home and wondering why it still feels damp.
- Choosing a system off price alone, without anyone walking through the home first.
- Skipping the commissioning step - an unbalanced system can actually pull damp air in from the wrong places.

A SIMPLE HOME TEST

- On a cold morning, look at the inside of your bedroom windows before you open the curtains. Heavy condensation almost every day = your home is holding too much moisture.
- Lift a corner of the bedroom carpet near an outside wall. A damp underfelt is a strong sign of poor ventilation, not just rising damp.



READY TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP?

Want this advice for your home? Book a free assessment.

Every Climate Systems consultation is on us. We come to your home, walk through what's working and what isn't, and give you straight, no-obligation advice on the right setup for your space and budget. No sales pressure, no surprises - just the same honest guidance we'd give a neighbour.

BOOK ONLINE

<https://climatesystems.co.nz/#book>

Pick a time that suits - we confirm by email.

OR CALL US

07 871 7898

Mon - Fri, 8am to 5pm. Most assessments booked within the week.

Prefer email?

Drop us a line at accounts@climatesystems.co.nz and we'll be in touch within one working day.

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