

# How to check and clean your extractor fan or rangehood

Extractor fans play an important role in reducing the moisture load in a home.

## Checking your extractor fans and rangehoods

- Your fan/rangehood needs to be extracting enough of the damp air out of the room. Hold a piece of A4 paper under the fan and if it doesn't hold it there, it could be that the filter needs cleaning or the fan isn't strong enough.
- The fans have filters which need to be cleaned regularly to work properly. Be careful when you do this – turn off anything electrical and make sure you're not climbing to reach the fans.
  - For rangehoods, you can generally remove the filters and wash them in a bucket or in the sink.
  - For ceiling extractor fans, you may be able to vacuum the fan intake.
- The fan must extract the damp air out of the house, not just into the roof of your house. You can check this by looking outside the house – you will see the outside vent in the soffit or, in some houses, it will be a pipe coming out of the roof.



## Use your extractor fans and rangehoods!

- Use them – they are not expensive to run, less than a light bulb.
- Many bathroom fans that are connected to the lights are designed to run for a certain amount of time after you turn the light off. The fan isn't broken – it's continuing to remove moisture from the room.
- It is your responsibility to use the extractor fans provided, to ensure they are cleaned, and, if you are in a rental property, to let your landlord know if they are not working.

## What rental properties should have:

All kitchens and bathrooms must have an extractor fan vented to the outside. If there is already a working extractor fan vented to the outside then it does not need to be replaced.

**It is your landlord's responsibility to ensure this is installed and to the correct standard.**