



Building Code Guide

BUILDING
SERVICES

CHANGE IN EXHAUST REQUIREMENTS

One/Two family detached dwellings and townhomes less than 3 stories

MECHANICAL
SECTION

ATTENTION CONTRACTORS

Cedar Rapids is currently working to adopt the 2015 International Construction Code Series. Under this code, the exhaust requirements for kitchens and bathrooms are less than what is currently being enforced.

In anticipation of the new code adoption, we are implementing the 2015 exhaust requirements for bathrooms and range hoods in one and two family detached dwellings and townhomes less than three stories in height, and they will be inspected for compliance as follows:

BATHROOM EXHAUST: Bathrooms shall have an openable window per the IRC 303.3 **OR** mechanical exhaust with an exhaust rate of 50 cfm's intermittent or 20 cfm's continuous (IRC Table M1507.4).

Mechanical exhaust is not required where a window with 1.5 sq. ft. openable area is provided

RANGE HOOD EXHAUST: Listed and labeled ductless range hoods installed in accordance with the manufacturers installation instructions are NOT required to be exhausted to the outside. (IRC1503.1, exception)

Ductless range hoods may be used in place of externally exhausted hoods.

In circumstances where exhaust is not required but is voluntarily provided- such as when a customer requests it- the exhaust rates and location of discharge requirements must be met.

The mechanical ventilation requirements for dwellings unit under 1507.3 of the IRC have not changed.

Have a GREAT day here in Cedar Rapids!

Building Services Mechanical Section
Randy Croft
Dave Lesmeister

DISCLAIMER: Cedar Rapids Building Services has created this handout to assist with construction and design and it is not intended to cover all circumstances. Please check with the Building Services Department for additional information and requirements.