



Homeowner Bulletin:
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If my house has an HRV/ERV, do I still need to test for radon?

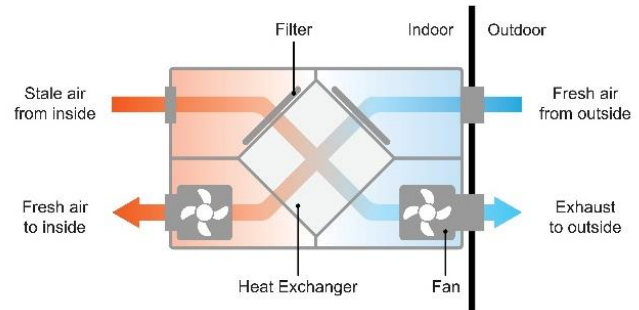
The short answer is yes: if you haven't already tested for radon, it's very important to do so regardless of whether your home has an HRV/ERV. Heat and energy recovery ventilators (HRV/ERV) are systems designed to improve indoor air quality by bringing fresh outdoor air into a home while exhausting stale indoor air. The design of these units allows for some heat (in the case of an HRV) or heat and humidity (in the case of an ERV) to be exchanged between the outgoing indoor air and incoming fresh air, in order to save energy. Depending on how they are functioning, HRV/ERVs could affect your radon levels for better, for worse, inconsistently, or not at all. That's why it's so important to test your home for radon!

HRV/ERVs must be balanced to function properly, which means that the same amount of air is being brought into the home as is being exhausted. When out of balance, a positive or negative pressure can be created in the home. Both situations can have harmful side effects. HRVs and ERVs may be out of balance if they weren't properly installed, if modifications have been made to the ducting or vents, or if the units aren't properly cleaned and maintained. Regular cleaning of the filters is an important part of maintenance that is often neglected.

HRV/ERVs should be cleaned and balanced as per the manufacturer's instructions.

There are simple videos available online, accessible either through the manufacturer's website or YouTube.

Heat Recovery Ventilator



⚠ Does your home already have an HRV/ERV?

If your home is already equipped with an HRV or ERV, consulting with a qualified professional to ensure the unit is properly set up and balanced is a good first step in addressing your radon levels. In certain cases, cleaning and adjusting the HRV or ERV has been found to lower radon levels, though this will not be as effective as installing a dedicated radon mitigation system. Even if radon levels aren't reduced, ensuring that your HRV/ERV is functioning properly is a good first step prior to taking further action to reduce your radon levels, such as consulting a C-NRPP radon professional to install a radon mitigation system. **Health Canada recommends every home be tested for radon.**

Continual Radon Monitoring and your HRV/ERV

If you are using an HRV or ERV to manage your radon levels, we recommend that you use a digital radon monitor to continually measure your radon levels. If your HRV/ERV starts to become unbalanced, the digital monitor will alert you to increasing radon levels. The digital monitor will also alert you to season variations in your radon levels. You can find a list of consumer-grade continual radon monitors reviewed by C-NRPP as part of the Consumer Device report here:

www.c-nrpp.ca

