

# How to check and clean your extractor fan or rangehood

Even if we're careful, we create moisture in our houses, especially in the kitchen in bathroom. The damp can make respiratory illnesses much worse and it provides ideal conditions for mould to grow (mould also makes people sick). Having kitchen and bathroom extractor fans, and using them properly, helps remove moisture.

## Checking your extractor fans and rangehoods

- Your fan/rangehood needs to be sucking enough of the damp air out of the room – hold a piece of A4 paper under the fan and if it doesn't suck it up, then it needs checking to see if the filter needs cleaning.
- 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.
  - For ceiling extractor fans, you may be able to vacuum out the fan intake.
- The fan must take 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, around 1 cent per hour
- 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 to let your landlord know if they are not working.

## What your house 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.

### **These are your landlords responsibilities.**

Deadlines vary: Applies to all new and renewed tenancies in private rentals from 1 July 2021, applies to all private rentals from 1 July 2024, applies to social housing from 1 July 2023.