

From: EPA - ENERGY STAR <energystarhomes@mail.energystar.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2024 11:01 AM
To: ENERGY STAR Homes & Apartments
Subject: New Technical Bulletin: Using Microwaves to Meet ENERGY STAR Kitchen Exhaust Requirements



ENERGY STAR®

**Residential New
Construction**



New Technical Bulletin: Using Microwaves to Meet ENERGY STAR Kitchen Exhaust Requirements

August 20, 2024

Removing local pollutants from cooking areas is critically important for indoor air quality. A new ENERGY STAR Technical Bulletin provides best practices related to the design, specification, installation, and testing of microwaves over cooktops that exhaust to the outdoors and meet minimum exhaust airflow requirements.

Guidance on How to Effectively Select and Install Microwave Equipment



The ENERGY STAR program requires kitchen ventilation that (a) meets minimum airflow at an intermittent rate of 100 cubic feet per minute (CFM) or a continuous rate of 5 air changes per hour (ACH), and (b) exhausts directly to the outdoors. Note that compliance will be assessed through a third-party measurement of the installed airflow or by verifying that prescriptive duct sizing limits have been met.

Homes and apartments are often designed with microwaves over cooktops to meet the two criteria above, and to comply with local code requirements. To effectively select and install microwave equipment, HVAC Designers, Ductwork and Fan Installers, and Raters should consider the following guidance.

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Questions? Email us at energystarhomes@energystar.gov.

Best regards, The ENERGY STAR Residential New Construction team

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