



Fan Exhaust Venting in Attics Do it Right!

Fan exhaust venting (aka ductwork) that is not correctly installed is one of the biggest contributors to mold growth in attics. These are some of the common mistakes we see:

- Fan exhaust venting that runs many feet across the attic
- Fan venting exhausting out of the soffits
- Exhaust venting made of slinky material (plastic or metal)
- Fan exhaust venting that is not sealed and/or insulated
- Fan exhaust venting with no shroud cover, at the fan
- Fan exhausts secured with Red Green's favourite grey duct tape

Mold in your attic will show as a grey, black, brown or white discolouration on the attic sheeting.

Your attic sheeting should be the golden wood colour of OSB or plywood.

Professionals have different opinions as to whether (or not) mold spores disperse throughout your home with air pressure when the doors are opened and closed.



Based on our experience, we recommend the following when you or your handyman is installing and/or repairing fan exhaust venting in your attic:

The exhaust venting running from fans in your attic should be running in the shortest path possible from the fan to the roof. This includes bathroom and stove overhead fans. You may need to hire a roofer to cut a roof stem vent for your this venting. The venting should be rigid metal – not slinky plastic or metal. Ideally, the rigid metal pipe and the roof stem vent hole should be 6" although 4" will work.

Attach the metal pipe to the roof vent with metal screws and aluminum foil tape or sealant. Do not use that ever-so-popular grey duct tape. Don't let the word 'duct' fool you as Red Green's favourite is not the best for this kind of work. The grey duct tape will come undone and the moist air will be venting into your attic.

Every screw hole and seam on the rigid metal pipe should be covered with the aluminum foil tape and then the entire pipe wrapped with a 'ductwork insulation sleeve'. Both ends of this sleeve should be secured to the rigid metal pipe with the red tuck tape. The insulation sleeve should not touch the roof. Make sure to leave a gap there.

The fan in the attic should be covered with a soft plastic vapour barrier cover (aka shroud). Use the red tuck tape to secure this shroud on all sides.

Want to know and easier way?

Call Home SOULutions and we will take care of it!

Comox Valley
250.334.8108

Campbell River
250.287-0519