



Multifamily

Creative solutions that meet your project goals



Washington State Energy Code Compliance

In response to the growing imperative for energy efficiency and sustainable practices, the upcoming Washington state energy code, effective October 2023, is poised to usher in a transformative change for residential spaces. Within the code, C403.3.6 stands as a significant requirement. It mandates the installation of a balanced ventilation system integrated with a heat recovery system, delivering a minimum of 60 percent sensible recovery effectiveness. This system is designed to introduce outdoor air directly into all habitable spaces, enhancing indoor air quality while promoting energy conservation. This forward-looking initiative aligns with the state's commitment to reducing energy consumption and advancing environmental responsibility.



Cost Considerations

As Washington state aligns with progressive energy efficiency goals, the financial landscape of compliance varies based on the chosen solutions. The transition to a balanced ventilation system with heat recovery prompts costs associated with equipment acquisition, installation, and potentially system recalibrations. The incorporation of these innovations, however, can yield long-term benefits. By assessing the design criteria before and after the energy code's implementation, stakeholders can gain insights into potential upfront investments and subsequent operational savings, ultimately aligning with Washington's sustainability vision.



Impact on Trades

The Washington state energy code's evolution has direct implications for various trades involved in construction. The Electrical and Mechanical sectors will find themselves at the forefront of implementing the mandated balanced ventilation systems with heat recovery. The responsibility for equipment procurement will rest with General, Mechanical, and Electrical contractors, collectively driving collaboration toward successful compliance. Notably, the transition to this energy-efficient paradigm won't sideline traditional expertise. Rather, it underscores the adaptability of skilled professionals, ensuring that innovation aligns harmoniously with existing trades.



Installation and Complexity

The installation of residential Energy Recovery Ventilators (ERVs) reflects a commitment to advancing energy-efficient living spaces. With parallels to the simplicity of installing a bathroom fan, the process minimizes potential disruptions to existing structures. This pragmatic approach not only ensures compliance with the new energy code but also underscores the feasibility of integrating energy-efficient technologies into residential settings. As Washingtonians seek ways to reduce their environmental footprint, embracing accessible solutions like ERVs contributes to statewide sustainability objectives.



Lead Times

In anticipation of the upcoming Washington state energy code, proactive measures are essential to mitigate potential supply chain challenges. Energy Recovery Units (ERUs) are currently accessible through various suppliers, reflecting the nascent stages of demand. However, as Washingtonians embrace this energy-efficient shift, the availability of ERUs may witness a surge in the foreseeable future. To maintain project timelines and uphold compliance, stakeholders are advised to maintain a ready inventory of ERUs, ensuring that this innovative transition unfolds seamlessly and efficiently.



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