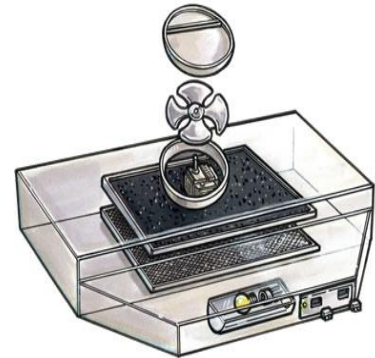


Kitchen Range Hood Vent Basics, Helpful Hints and How They Work

Vent hoods are usually built-in and are wired directly to the household electrical system. They have few components and a simple principle.



Components

Vent hoods are simply a fan and/or light housed in a metal and/or glass shroud (hood).

Principle

The metal/glass shroud acts as a deterrent to the spread of a stovetop fire, and helps to collect cooking fumes. The fans come in two varieties, rotary or centrifugal and performs either of two actions:

1. For an external/outside vented system, it draws fumes and odors up or down--depending on the style of vent hood--through a grease filter inside a duct system and out of the house.
2. For systems **without external/outside venting**, fumes and odors are drawn over an activated-charcoal filter and re-circulates the air, back into the room.

Maintenance and Cleaning the filters

You need to periodically clean your over-the-stove vent hood. The thin, silvery screen is the grease filter (there may be more than one). It traps airborne oils and grease to keep them out of the blower and exhaust vent. To clean the filter, remove it and soak it in a degreasing solution until the grease is dissolved. Next, wash it with warm, soapy water to remove any traces of the degreaser. Then put it in the upper rack of the dishwasher and run it through a normal cycle.

If your unit circulates the air rather than vents it to the exterior of the building as most of Natick Green's kitchen range hood vents do, it may have one or more activated charcoal filters. Don't wash these. Just replace them when they lose their effectiveness. You can find replacement filters at your local hardware store or through the Natick Green Management office. If you'd like our maintenance staff to replace yours for a nominal fee of \$30 plus materials and tax, simply contact us at (508) 655-5800 and a work order can be submitted.

Warning! Be sure the unit is turned off before you clean it. Also avoid spraying cleaner directly onto the light bulb or light bulb socket. Clean the interior of the vent hood with a standard household degreaser/cleaner.

Exterior cleaning

Clean the exterior of your vent hood with a degreaser/cleaner or a non-abrasive cleanser.

Fan motor care

Most vent hood fan motors don't need any maintenance. Over time, the motor and bearings may become stiff because of the constant heat, humidity, and grease to which they're subjected. The blower wheel also gets greasy and dirty, over time, which can slow down the fan or cause vibration. Remove the wheel and clean it with a degreaser. Then, if the fan is still slow or if it vibrates, you need to replace the fan motor.