

July, 2009

Greetings from Panasonic Home and Environment Company:

Panasonic is highly committed to the environment and energy efficiency. This packet and DVD are being provided to weatherization agencies across the United States to show why we need ventilation and how to include mechanical ventilation in a wide range of existing housing scenarios. With the increase in weatherization funding provided by the American Recovery and Revitalization Act, you have an opportunity to expand your weatherization efforts to more houses and apartments, while improving their energy efficiency and indoor air quality (IAQ).

Airtightening and duct sealing are mainstays of most weatherization programs. We at Panasonic have always subscribed to the dictum **Make it Tight and Ventilate it Right**. This applies to both new construction and existing housing stock.

In the past, however, it has been common practice for agencies to limit their tightening efforts. This results in limited efficiency gains and limited need for IAQ ventilation. The concept of a “magic” level of airtightness that preserves indoor air quality without mechanical ventilation is based on a mistaken annual average; that is to say, too much natural ventilation in the winter averaged with stagnant air in the spring and fall equals a “healthy” annual average. This approach does not address the real-world IAQ needs of occupants. **We encourage you to include mechanical ventilation, both spot ventilation in bathrooms and kitchens and whole building ventilation for general indoor air quality, in your weatherization protocols.**

The DVD included in this packet was prepared to provide basic training on why we need to ventilate when we make homes tighter, the codes and standards that apply, several ventilation strategies, and some training on duct design and installation to ensure the equipment operates as intended. This kit is not intended as a promotion for Panasonic fans, but rather an informational piece with added resources for where to get more training. It can be used to familiarize new staff with proper ventilation techniques, as an informational brief or guidance for new or existing contractors, and as justification for program specs. It does not replace the overall training required to become a Building Performance Institute, RESNET, or other program-certified weatherization expert, but it does provide basic “why and how” answers.

Yes, this packet includes some optional Panasonic product information too, but this information applies to all quality products from all manufacturers’. Physics is physics, and pressure drop is pressure drop, no matter what the fan’s brand. First and foremost, we want you to consider the benefits of mechanical ventilation as you develop your program specifications. I hope this material will help.

Please contact me or your local Panasonic Home and Environment Representative with any questions. Thank you for your time and consideration.



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