

Building a Healthy Home: A Closer Look at Indoor Air Quality



Providing homebuyers with the healthiest home possible starts with the indoor air quality (IAQ) equipment you spec. By investing in a high-quality HVAC system and a handful of key accessories when building a house, you can create the IAQ ecosystem homebuyers want – and prevent the need for a difficult retrofit down the road.

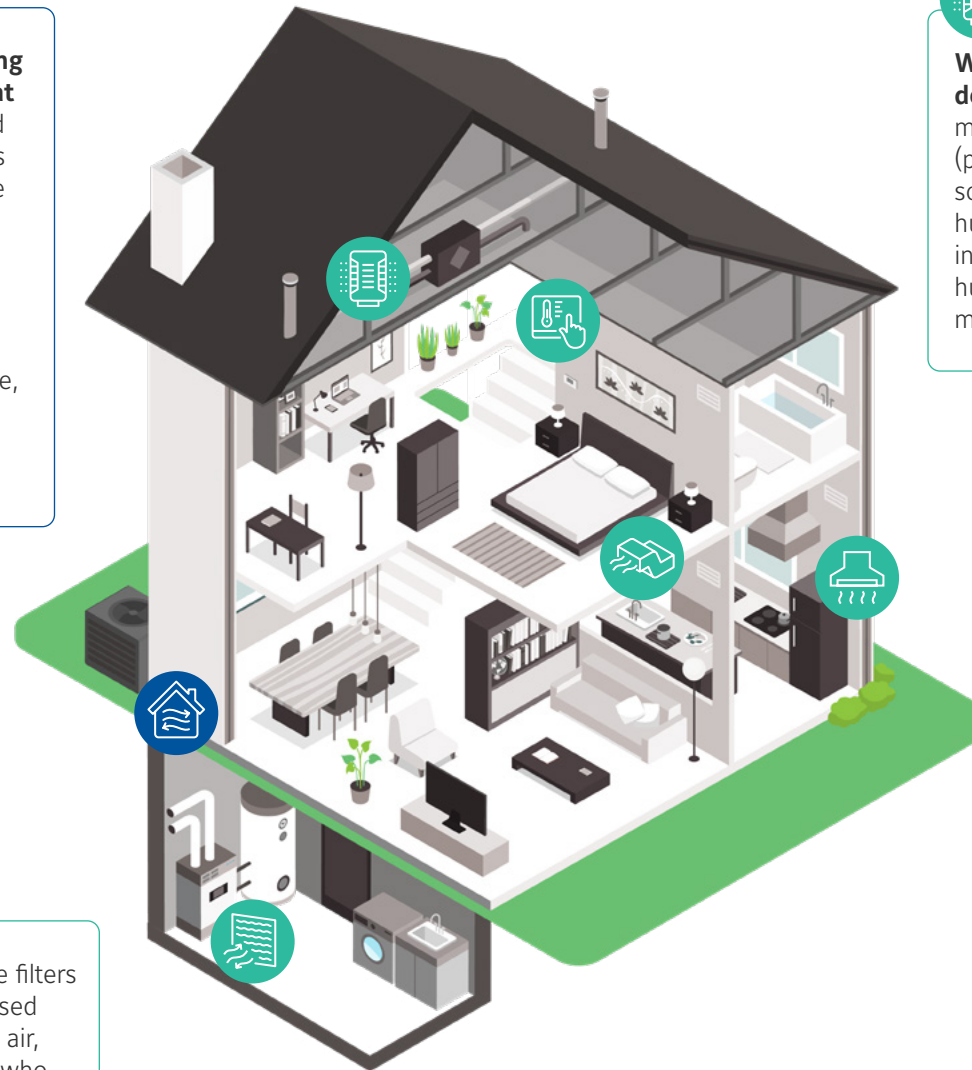
ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT

A variable-capacity heating and cooling system, including a **high-efficiency heat pump or air conditioner** typically paired with an **air handler or furnace**, provides a home's best IAQ defense. Why variable capacity? Varying airflow as heating and cooling loads rise and fall provides a better mix of fresh air than single-stage equipment, which turns on and off at full speed. Mixing air is critical because gas-based pollutants, including carbon dioxide, can build up without adequate airflow – especially in smaller areas where we congregate, such as bedrooms at night.

SMART EXTRAS

Touch-screen thermostats with wireless-control capabilities keep you connected to all HVAC settings for optimal IAQ.

Filter racks that can accommodate large filters (up to 4 inches) help remove particle-based pollutants such as dirt and dust from the air, which is especially important for people who suffer from allergies.



Whole-house humidifiers and dehumidifiers help ensure healthier, more comfortable IAQ. Dehumidifiers (particularly in the summer and in southern regions of the U.S.) and humidifiers (particularly in the winter and in northern regions) that create optimal humidity levels reduce the conditions for mold, bacteria and viruses to grow.



Sealed ducts throughout a home's conditioned space, which many building codes already require, ensure efficient airflow and reduce the chance for dirt, dust and other particle-based pollutants to spread through the air.



Range hoods that vent outside help remove pollutants produced from cooking.

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