



Make-Up Air FAQs

What is Make-Up Air?

Make-Up Air is an outside air supply that is brought indoors to relieve air starvation, which occurs when air is being exhausted, or to meet building code requirements. Make-Up Air units may be required to heat, ventilate, cool, and/or filter. Units may also be required to replace the air of a conditioned space, or may be used for part or all of the heating, ventilating, and/or cooling load.

When is Make-Up Air required?

Make-Up Air is required when exhaust fans are used, when fresh outside air is needed, or when building codes or other regulations require substantial amounts of replacement air. The need for Make-Up Air arises when there are:

- Activities which create excessive heat or undesirable odors
- Hazardous material storage areas
- Ventilation requirements for building inhabitants
- Processes which generate contaminants in the form of noxious fumes or dust
- Exterior doors are hard to open
- Sever in-drafts at exterior doors
- Exhaust systems do not perform at rated volume
- Perimeter of the building is cold in the winter due to high infiltration

Where is Make-Up Air used?

Make-Up Air units not only supply replacement air for areas where air is exhausted, but also provide low cost economizing ventilation, heating and cooling in such areas as:

- Restaurants / Kitchens
- Schools (classrooms, gymnasiums, cafeterias, kitchens)
- Jails
- Dog Kennels
- Laundries
- Factories
- Animal Barns / Stockyards
- Poultry Houses
- Greenhouses
- Warehousing Facilities

- Rest Rooms
- Garages / Gas Stations
- Paint Rooms

Are there alternative applications?

YES! A Make-Up Air unit can serve as a fresh air source when outside temperatures are favorable, and it can also spot cool or heat even though no air is being exhausted.