

Attic Ventilation

If your attic isn't properly vented, attic temperatures can reach 140 degrees or higher in the summer. These high temperatures penetrate into the rooms below, increasing demand on your cooling system and increasing energy bills.

Attic ventilation helps cool your home and reduce air conditioning costs. It can also help extend the life of your roof shingles because excess attic heat may cause roof shingles to deteriorate and require repair or replacement. With proper attic ventilation, you can avoid unnecessary costs and keep your home cooler in hot summer months.



Proper Ventilation Cools Your Attic Naturally

An attic ventilation system provides a steady flow of air that carries heat out of the attic before the heat radiates to the inside of your home. With natural ventilation, the flow of air through the attic is balanced between intake and exhaust vents.

- **Positioning of Vents** – Intake vents, where cooler air enters the attic, should be placed lower than exhaust vents, where warmer air exits the attic.

Vents should be located and designed to prevent rain from leaking into the attic. The most common types are:

- **Ridge Vents** – These are installed along the roof ridge.
- **Roof Vents** – These are metal vent housings installed in the roof.
- **Gable Vents** – These are louvered vents installed in the high part of the roof gable.
- **Eave Vents** – These are installed in the roof eaves or overhang.

To make a complete venting system, you should have properly sized roof, ridge or gable vents installed at the high points of the roof, and eave vents installed at the low points in the eaves or overhangs.

Check the “Free Area” of Vents

It is important to examine the “free area” of a vent – the amount of open space in the vent through which air flows. Louvers and screens, which keep out rain, leaves, birds and animals, can reduce open space in the vent. For example, the free area of a gable vent can be as little as 40% of its outside dimensions. Check product information to determine the free area for the type of vent you’re considering.

How Much Attic Ventilation Do You Need?

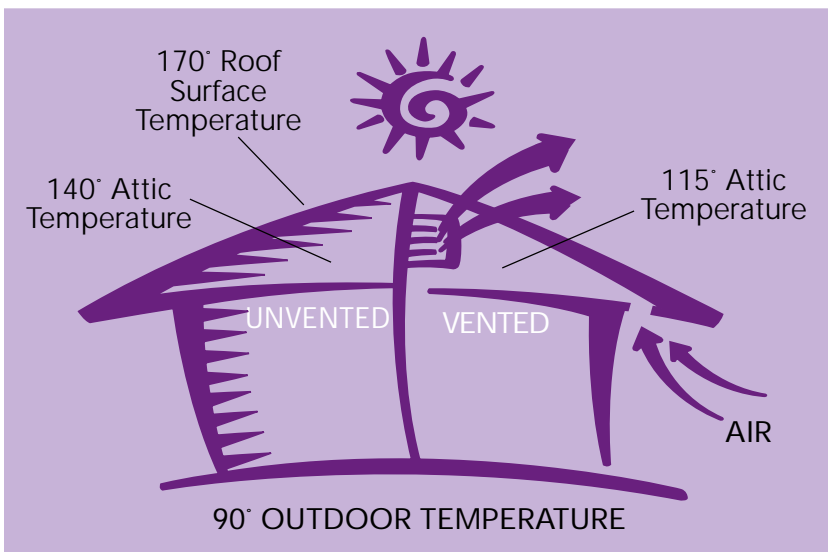
Building codes determine the “free area” of your attic ventilation. The building codes depend on three factors:

- The square footage of your attic.
- If your home has a vapor barrier installed at the exterior walls and ceiling.
- The type of ventilation system used.

Recommended ventilation requirements are printed in the *Uniform Building Code*. Check with your builder or contractor to make sure that your ventilation system is installed according to local code requirements.

Things to Consider

- Don’t block vents with attic insulation.
- Check with your contractor to make sure that the ventilation system is installed according to local code requirements.



For More Information Call the APS Energy Answer Line

For more information on ways to save energy in your home, call the **APS Energy Answer Line in Phoenix at (602) 371-3636 or toll-free 1 (888) 890-9730**. Or visit our web site at www.apsc.com.