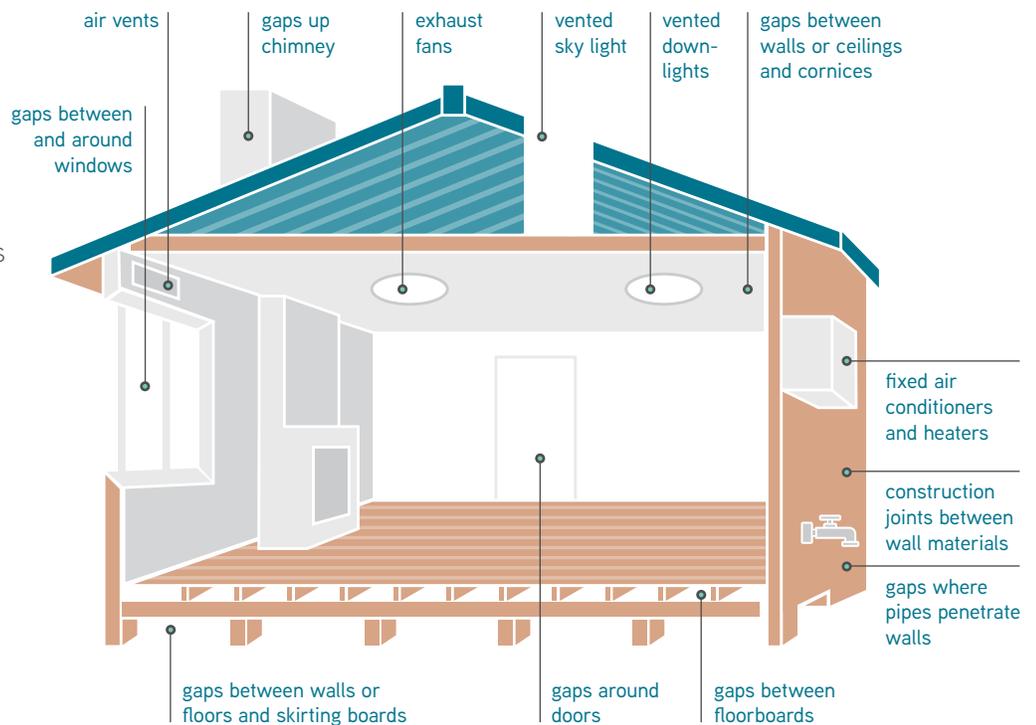


IAQ Home Assessment: Infiltration Checklist

Staying inside with the doors and windows closed can reduce the entry of outdoor air into homes, in some cases by a third or more.¹ Unfortunately, wildfire smoke outdoors can enter your home through a process called *infiltration*. Infiltration refers to the movement of air in and out of homes through unintentional openings, caused by pressure and temperature differences. Your HVAC contractor can help you identify and close sources of infiltration.



Checklist to be done by HVAC professional:

- Attic hatches are closed
- Fresh air dampers are closed
- Fireplace screens are closed
- Windows and doors are closed, including the garage-to-home entrance
- Large gaps are sealed as much as possible, especially around doors
- Portable air cleaners are running at the highest fan speed
- CO alarms are installed, functional, and not expired (lack of fresh air means more importance on indoor air quality levels that can build up)
- MERV 13 or higher furnace fan installed and sealed properly
- HVAC system's circulating fan set to operate continuously to obtain maximum particle removal by the central air system's filter

Homework for homeowners:

- Avoid indoor sources of pollutants, including tobacco smoke, heating with wood stoves, frying or broiling foods, burning candles or incense, vacuuming (unless HEPA equipped), and using paints, solvents, cleaning chemicals, and adhesives
- Have a several-day supply of nonperishable groceries that do not require cooking, since cooking (especially frying and broiling) can add to indoor pollutant levels.
- Have extra medications, such as asthma medicine
- When air quality improves, even temporarily, "air out" your home by opening windows and fresh air dampers to reduce indoor air pollution.
- Avoid spending time outdoors, especially exercising outdoors.

¹ Howard-Reed et al., 2002