



Track: Natural Gas Basics
Unit 9: Building Codes & Fuel Switching

Eric Burgis, Energy Solutions Center

Presentation Outline

- Codes and Standards
- Gas piping piping materials, joints, and general sizing criteria
- Venting venting system types and sizing
- Appliance conversions propane and oil
- Resources





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Code Requirements

- Safety first
 - Individual utility requirements check SOP Manual for any specific code requirements
 - Local or State Codes
 - National Gas Codes





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Basic Requirement

- •Any conversion will need to meet all fuel gas installation requirements of the current code
- ■Current Propane Users May be able convert appliances, reuse piping, and vents
- Current Oil Users May be able to convert boiler/furnace and use existing chimney



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Gas Piping & Materials

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Allowed Gas Piping

- Scheduled 40 Wrought Iron, Steel (Black Pipe) or galvanized steel
- Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing (CSST)
 - Two types CSST: yellow clad, and arc-resistant (jacketed)
- ■Copper provided gas contains less than .3 grains of hydrogen sulfide per 100 scf (.7 mg/100 L)
- Polyethylene (underground and outside only)









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Fittings

- Scheduled 40 Wrought Iron, Steel (Black Pipe),
 Galvanized Steel Threaded up to 4", welded greater
 than 4"
- CSST Fittings provided by manufacturer
- Polyethylene Risers & Transition fittings
- Press-Connect fittings for steel & copper
 - (Must comply with CSA LC-4)





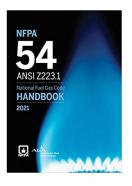
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Pipe Sizing

- For steel pipe NFPA sizing tables, state gas codes or utility piping schedules
- CSST Manufacturers specifications or local jurisdiction





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Prince Sizing Tables | Table 6.2.1(b) | Schedule 40 Metallic Pye | Page Sizing | Pye Sizing

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What's Needed

- ■Total BTU of installed appliances
- ■Total pipe length from the outlet of the meter to the furthermost appliance
- System pressure (in. w.c. or PSI)
- Piping material



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Sizing Pipe for Propane Conversion

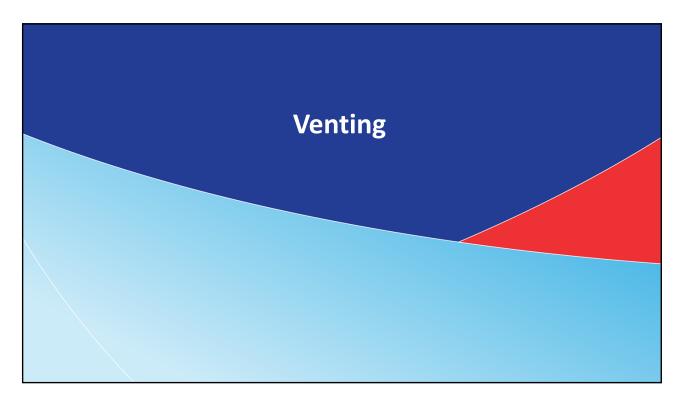
- Reuse pipe without modification if sizing is adequate
- Change out if local LDC does not allow copper fuel line for natural gas.
 - Note that the Fuel Gas Code requires that natural gas contain less than .3 grains of hydrogen sulfide per 100 scf (.7 mg/100 L) for use with copper piping. Pipeline quality natural gas is below this level.



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Appliance Categories

(Cat I & IV available for boilers, furnaces, and storage water heaters)

- Category I: An appliance that operates with non-positive vent static pressure and with vent gas temperature that avoids excessive condensate production in the vent (Atmospheric)
- Category II: An appliance that operates with a non-positive vent static pressure and with a vent gas temperature that may cause excessive condensate production in the vent (technically infeasible)



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Appliance Categories.....continued

- Category III: An appliance that operates with a positive vent static pressure and with a vent gas temperature that avoids excessive condensate production in the vent
- **Category IV:** An appliance that operates with a positive vent static pressure and with a vent gas temperature that may cause excessive condensate production in the vent.



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Type of Venting Systems

Table 12.5.1 Type of Venting System to Be Used.

Appliances	Type of Venting System	Location of Requirements
Listed Category I appliances	Type B gas vent	12.7
Listed appliances equipped with draft hood	Chimney	12.6
Appliances listed for use with Type B gas vent	Single-wall metal pipe	12.8
_	Listed Chimney lining system for gas venting	12.6.1.3
	Special Gas Vent listed for these appliances	12.5.4
Listed vented wall furnaces	Type B-W gas vent	12.7, 10.25
Category II, Category III, and Category IV appliances	As specified or furnished by manufacturers of listed appliances	12.5.2, 12.5.4



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Typical Venting Systems

- ■Lined masonry chimney natural draft atmospheric appliances
- ■Type B natural draft atmospheric appliances
- ■Plastic most condensing appliances









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Exposed Masonry Chimneys

- Can be used for gas appliances only if relined with a liner system or
 B-Type vent is installed
- Use chimney as a chase







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Type-B Double-Wall Gas Vents

- Has an aluminum inner wall and a galvanized steel outer wall
- The double-wall, air insulated design keeps the flue gases hot inside the vent, while maintaining a cool outside wall temperature
- Provides a strong draft with minimal condensation and permits the vent to be installed with a 1-inch clearance to nearby combustibles





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Type-B Double-Wall Gas Vents

- •The aluminum inner wall heats up rapidly because the aluminum has a low mass and high thermal conductivity, presenting a warm surface to the vent gases
- Condensation forms only briefly on the vent walls, which reduces the wet time and the potential for corrosion
- The aluminum inner wall is corrosion resistant to condensation that may form in the vent, which provides a safe, long lasting installation



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Using Existing Chimneys and Vents

- Match load resized for new use
- Existing chimney must be examined to determine if it is in good shape and properly lined
- •Cleaned if previously used for oil or solid fuel and terracotta lined. (If not lined the masonry chimney requires a liner before it can be used for natural gas if previously used for oil.)



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Proper Sizing of Exhaust

- Natural draft type: Venting tables
- Fan-Assisted Category I appliances (e.g. 80% AFUE) use the venting tables
- Condensing Appliances (e.g. 90+ AFUE) & Direct Vent use the manufacturer's instructions



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Sizing Tables

- •Sizing tables should be viewed as a basic tool for the design of venting systems that provides valuable information on how four key factors impact each other:
 - The **BTU** rating of the appliance, the **height** of the vent, the **length** of any lateral runs, and the **diameter** of the vent
 - If any three factors are known, the sizing table will indicate what the fourth factor should be



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| Number of Appliance: | Single | Appliance | Singl

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Natural Draft Appliances – Vent Sizing

- The vent and connector diameters are located across the top of the tables and the list of BTU's under the columns entitled "NAT MAX"
- The BTU values indicate the maximum volume of gas (BTU's) that can be vented through a given vent diameter

Table 13.1(e)		Single V	Vall Metal Pip	e				Single			
		or Type	B Asbestos					Draft Hood-Equipped			
		Cement	Vent	Ap	Appliance Vent Connection:			Connected Directly to Pipe or Vent			
Height	Lateral	Vent Diameter — D in.									
H	L	3	4	5	6	7	8	10	12		
(ft)	(ft)	Appliance Input Rating in Thousands of Btu per Hour									
6	0	39	70	116	170	232	312	500	750		
	2	31	55	94	141	194	260	415	620		
	5	28	51	88	128	177	242	390	600		
8	0	42	76	126	185	252	340	542	815		
	2	32	61	102	154	210	284	451	680		
	5	29	56	95	141	194	264	430	648		
	10	24	49	86	131	180	250	406	625		



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Natural Draft Appliances - Vent Sizing

- The second factor that determines the size of a vent system is the total height of the vent
- Locate the height column on the far left of the sizing chart
- For any given vent diameter, the greater the height of the vent, the greater the BTU capacity of the venting system

Table 13.1(e) Single Wall Metal Pipe or Type B Asbestos Cement Vent				Number of App pliance Vent					
Height	Lateral	Vent Diameter — D in.							
H	L	3	4	5	6	7	8	10	12
(ft)	(ft)			Appliance I	nput Rating in	Thousands of	Btu per Hour		
6	0	39	70	116	170	232	312	500	750
	2	31	55	94	141	194	260	415	620
	5	28	51	88	128	177	242	390	600
8	0	42	76	126	185	252	340	542	815
	2	32	61	102	154	210	284	451	680
	5	29	56	95	141	194	264	430	648
	10	24	49	86	131	180	250	406	625



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Natural Draft Appliances – Vent Sizing

- The third factor that determines the size of the vent is the length of any horizontal (lateral) runs
- Since hot flue gas attempts to flow straight up, a lateral run of vent pipe serves as a restriction
- By eliminating long lateral runs in the venting system a less expensive, smaller diameter vent may be used on the same BTU appliance

Table 13.1(e)		Single V	Vall Metal Pi	pe	Number of	Appliances:	Single	Single			
		e)		B Asbestos	•	Appliance Type:			Draft Hood-Equipped		
			Cement	Vent	Ap	Appliance Vent Connection:			Connected Directly to Pipe or Vent		
		_									
Height	Lateral					Vent Diam	eter — D in.				
H	L		3	4	5	6	7	8	10	12	
(ft)	(ft)	Г	Appliance Input Rating in Thousands of Btu per Hour								
6	0	Т	39	70	116	170	232	312	500	750	
	2		31	55	94	141	194	260	415	620	
	5		28	51	88	128	177	242	390	600	
8	0	Т	42	76	126	185	252	340	542	815	
	2		32	61	102	154	210	284	451	680	
	5		29	56	95	141	194	264	430	648	
	10		24	49	86	131	180	250	406	625	

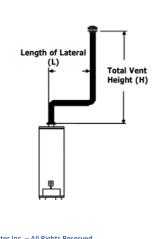


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How to Size

- Determine the Total Vent Height and length of lateral as shown in the appropriate table
- Find a height equal to or less than the total height of the installation in the table
- Select the horizontal row for the appropriate Lateral (L) length
- For natural draft appliances, read across to the first column under NAT Max, which has a BTU capacity equal to or greater than the nameplate sea level input rating of the appliance
- The proper vent size is shown at the top of the column

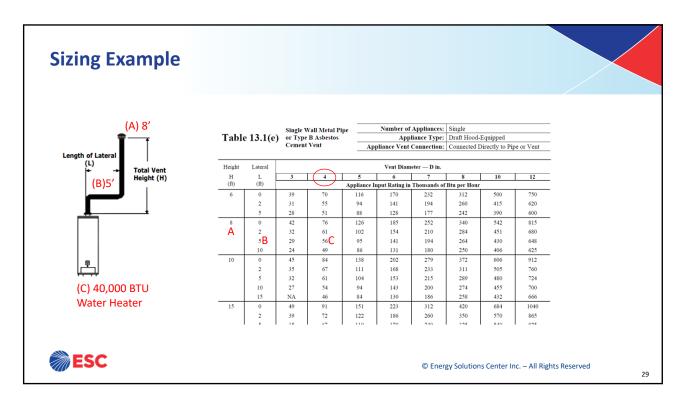


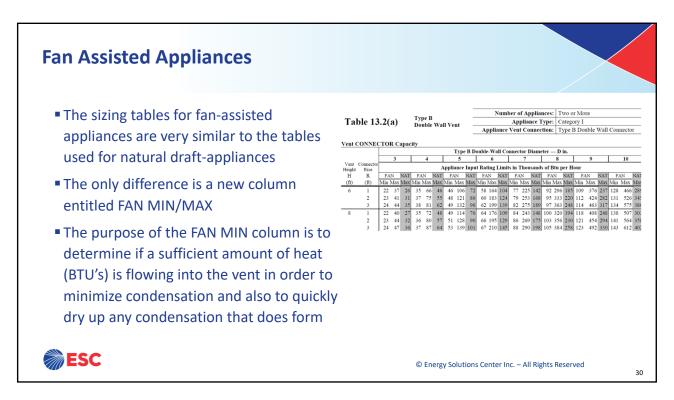


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Fan Assisted Appliances

- For fan-assisted appliances; it is very important that the appliance BTU input rating falls between the FAN MIN and the FAN MAX
- If the BTU input rating is less than the FAN MIN, condensation may occur
- If the BTU input rating is greater than the FAN MAX, the flue gas may backup and cause the vent system to become pressurized

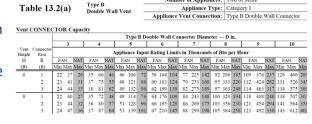


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Fan Assisted Sizing

- For fan-assisted appliances, read across to the first column under FAN Min/Max which has a Min value greater than or equal to the appliance input rating, and a Max value less than or equal to the appliance input rating
- The appliance input rating must fit within the Min and Max limits
- The proper vent size is shown at the top of the column



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Common Vent Systems

- A common vent system refers to an installation of two or more gas appliances, installed on the same floor level, that are each connected to a common vent
- The vent connector sizing tables for common vent installations are quite similar to the sizing tables for single appliance installations



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Common Vent Systems

- ■There are two important differences when sizing vent connectors for common vented appliances:
 - First, which vent height is used when one appliance is taller than the other?
 - To be on the conservative side, use the vent height measured from the taller appliance
 - Since the taller appliance will have the least total height, it is important to size the venting system to insure that the taller appliance will draft properly
 - Use the least total height when sizing vent connectors for both the tall and short appliances



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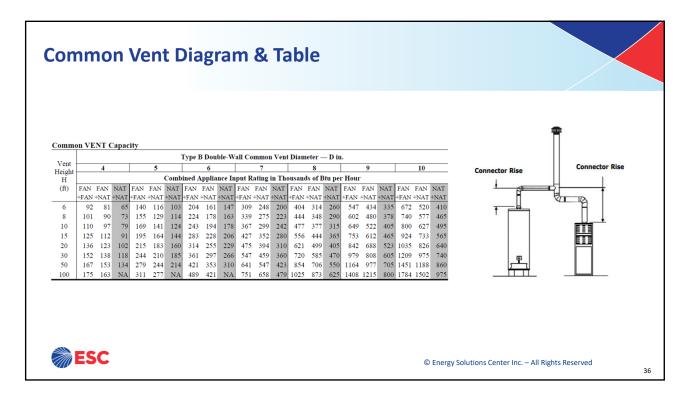
Common Vent Systems

- •There are two important differences when sizing vent connectors for common vented appliances:
 - The **second** difference in the vent connector tables for common vented appliances is the concern with the vertical height of the connector rise the distance between the appliance flue outlet and the level at which the connector joins the common vent
 - This is important because the greater the connector rise, the stronger the draft



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Sizing Notes

- It is very important to follow all of the rules and vent requirements for proper sizing
- The sizing tables do not take into consideration many of the special circumstances that can significantly change the values listed in the tables
- ■The tables assume that only two 90° elbows are used in the entire vent system
- When more than two 90° elbows are used, the maximum capacity values listed in the sizing tables must be reduced by 10% for each additional 90° elbow, or equivalent



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Alternate Sizing Method

- ■Prior to the introduction of fan-assisted gas appliances, installers typically relied on the "Alternate Sizing Method" for designing venting system
- ■The installer simply sized the vent to the size of the appliance flue outlet
- •While this method was very simple, it failed to take into account important factors such as the total height of the vent, length of lateral runs, number of elbows, etc.
- As a result, this sizing method often resulted in improperly sized installations and, in some cases, vent designs that could have been more cost effective



CONTINUED

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Alternate Sizing Method

- Today, with the introduction of "near condensing" fan-assisted gas appliances and higher efficiency levels for draft hood-equipped appliances, proper sizing has become far more critical and less forgiving
- The National Fuel Gas Code now restricts the use of the Alternate Sizing Method to Category I draft hood-equipped appliances only
- Fan-assisted appliances must be sized using the vent tables



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When In Doubt

- Use one size larger
- It is not possible to anticipate all contingencies in designing a vent system
- If there is concern that the vent may not function properly due to a short connector rise, excessive number of elbows, long lateral runs, etc., the next larger size vent connector should be selected
- Be sure to increase the connector size all the way down to the appliance outlet, even if the appliance outlet size is smaller than the vent
- By increasing the vent connector size, the risk of draft hood spillage or positive pressure problems will be avoided



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Roof Terminations

■Type B Gas Vent caps should terminate in accordance with these dimensions in mind

Item	Clearances	Maximum Height	Outer Tube Ø	Materials	Locking Device	UL Listing	ULC Listing	NOTES
Type B Vent Round 3"-8"	1 inch to combustibles	100 feet	%" larger than ID	Inner012" Aluminum Outer018" Galvanized	DuraLock	MH6357	CMH1276	Clearance to combustibles is the air space between vent and
Round 10" to 16" See note 2	1 inch to combustibles	100 feet	1" larger than ID	Inner016" Aluminum Outer021" Galvanized	TwistLock Screws	MH6357	CMH1276	combustibles.
Round 18" to 30"	1 inch to combustibles	100 feet	2" larger than ID See note 5	Inner020" Aluminum Outer021" Galvanized	Screws	MH6357	CMH1276	Maximum height varies with equipment over 50', for taller
	2" x 4" & 2" x 6" stud wall and 1 inch to combustibles	See Note 3	2 ½" x 7 ¼" 3 ½" x 10 ½"	Inner012" Aluminum Outer018" Galvanized	Button Lock	MH6357	CMH1276	applications refer to SDV sizing handbook (L202). 14"-16" Pipe
Oval Type B Vent 6"	2" x 6" stud wall and 1 inch to combustibles	See Note 3	3 ¼" x 12"	Inner012" Aluminum Outer018" Galvanized	Button Lock	MH6357	CMH1276	require screws. 3. When oval is used on wall
Type B Vent 3" to 6" Round Liner	0"/Masonry	50 feet	%" larger than ID	Inner012" Aluminum Outer018" Galvanized	DuraLock	MH14420 MH6357	CMH1407	furnaces, minimum height required from bottom of furnace to cap is 12',
DuraFlex AL Gas Relining 3" to 6"	0"/Masonry	50 feet	1/4" larger than ID	.010" Aluminum Flex	Screws DuraLock	MH14420		minimum 16" stud space. 4. Limited by sizing tables.
DuraConnect 3" to 6"	1 inch to combustibles	See Note 4	1/4" larger than ID	.010" Aluminum Flex .018" Galvalume	DuraLock	MH14089	-	5. 18" pipe OD is one inch larger
DuraConnect II 3" to 6"	1 inch to combustibles	See Note 4	1/4" larger than ID	.010" Aluminum Flex .018" Galvalume	DuraLock	MH14089		than ID and 20" - 30" OD is 2" greater than ID.

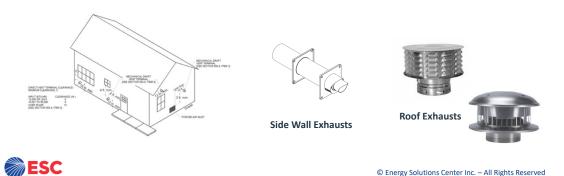
	Minimum Height						
Roof Pitch	Feet	Meters					
Flat to 7/12	1	0.30					
Over 7/12 to 8/12	1.5	0.46					
Over 8/12 to 9/12	2	0.61					
Over 9/12 to 10/12	2.5	0.76					
Over 10/12 to 11/12	3.25	0.99					
Over 11/12 to 12/12	4	1.22					
Over 12/12 to 14/12	5	1.52					
Over 14/12 to 16/12	6	1.83					
Over 16/12 to 18/12	7	2.13					
Over 18/12 to 20/12	7.5	2.29					
Over 20/12 to 21/12	8	2.44					



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Vent Terminations

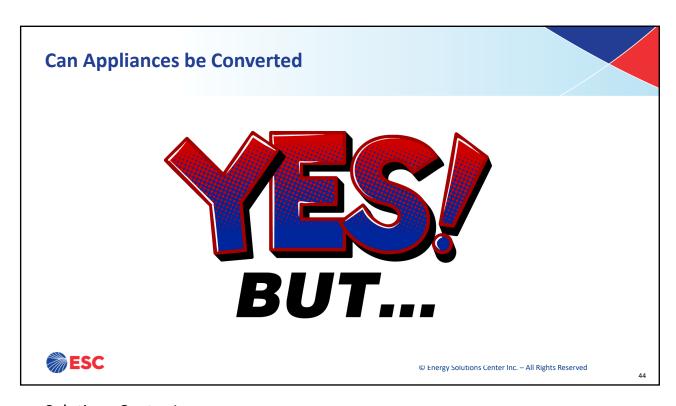
All vents must be installed observing local regulations in addition to National Codes, CCSA-B149.1 or CCSA-B149.2 (for installations in Canada) or ANSI-Z223.1 - NFPA 54 (for installations in the U.S.A.)



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Appliance Conversions



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Appliance Conversion Rules

- Appliances shall not be converted to utilize a different fuel gas except where complete instructions for such conversion are provided in the installation instructions, by the appliance manufacturer.
- •Manufacturers are most knowledgeable about what needs to be done to convert their appliance.



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Converting from Propane

- Typically an orifice and control valve assembly change for furnace, boiler, range, or dryer.
 - Propane water heaters are a more complicated conversion and replacement is sometimes a better option.





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Converting from Oil

■Typically requires a burner change out using a qualified conversion burner





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Things to Consider Before Converting

- Age of appliance
- Availability of adequate instructions/parts
- **■**Current appliance efficiency
- Vent/Chimney condition for reuse
- Overall cost versus new appliance purchase and install



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Typical Conversion Appliances

Propane: Cooking appliances, dryer, fireplace appliances, and barbecues







Oil: Boilers, Furnaces, and occasionally water heaters





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Combustion Air

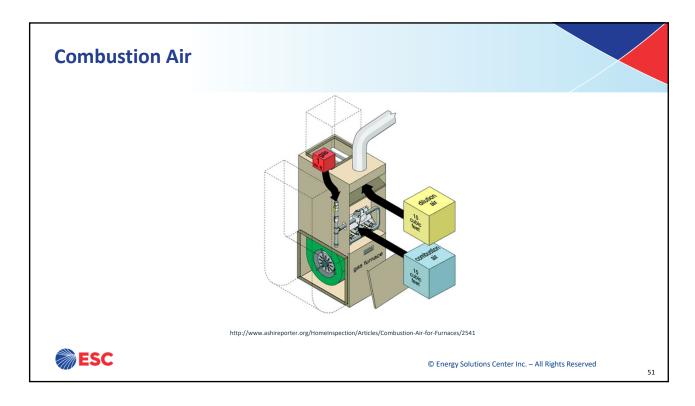
- Combustion air is necessary for burning fuel such as gas, oil and wood.
- Furnaces need both combustion air and dilution air. The requirements are about 15 cubic feet of combustion air and 15 cubic feet of dilution air for every cubic foot of gas burned.

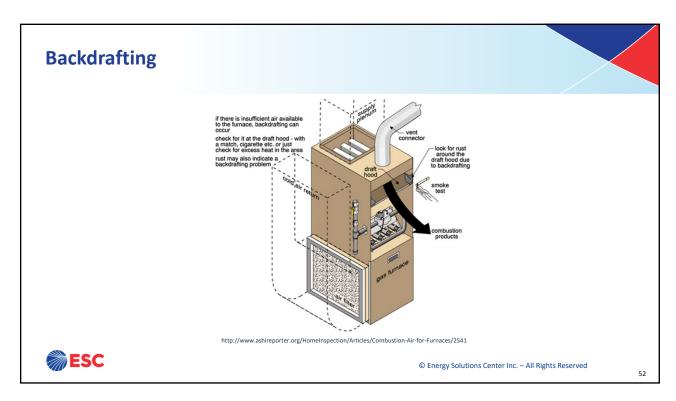


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Backdrafting

- The implications of inadequate combustion and dilution air are significant
- The incomplete combustion process will generate carbon monoxide (the poisonous gas)
- ■The lack of dilution air is likely to result of backdraft this means that combustion products can't go up the chimney but are dumped back into the room, which is under low pressure (since it's starved for air, because we've pulled all the air into the furnace for the combustion and dilution process)
- Backdrafting is also called spillage



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Combustion Air Options

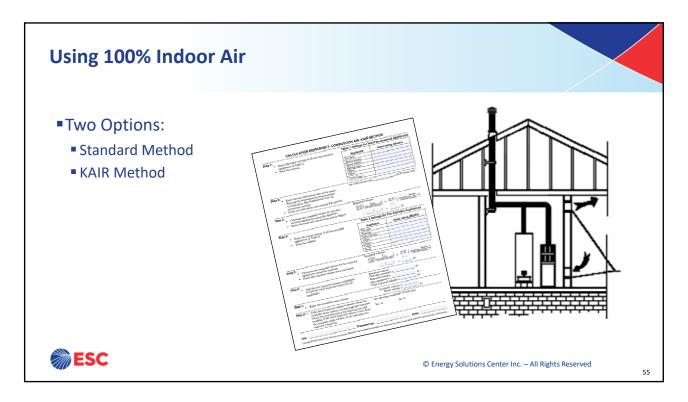
- ■100% Indoor Air building infiltration is adequate to supply combustion air
- ■100% Outdoor Air opening to the outdoors where infiltration is inadequate
- ■Indoor/Outdoor which permits smaller outdoor openings in some cases



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Standard Method

- ■Indoor Combustion Air The required volume of indoor air shall be determined in accordance with method 9.3.2.1 or 9.3.2.2 except that where the air infiltration rate is know to be less than 0.40 Air Changes per Hour (ACH), the method 9.3.2.2 shall be used
- ■The minimum required volume shall be 50 ft³ per 1,000 Btu/hr (4.8 m3/kW)
- Method based on 0.50 ACH



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KAIR Method Known Air Infiltration Rate | Sale to the up contage of all me formula | Sale to the up contage of all me formula | Sale to the up contage of all me formula | Sale to the up contage of all me formula | Sale to the up contage of all me formula | Sale to the up contage of all me formula | Sale to the up contage of all me formula | Sale to the up contage of all me formula | Sale to the up contage of all me formula | Sale to the up contage of all me formula | Sale to the up contage of all me formula | Sale to the up contage of all me formula | Sale to the up contage of all me formula | Sale to the up contage of all me formula | Sale to the up contage of all me formula | Sale to the up contage of all me formula | Sale to the up contage of all me formula | Sale to the up contage of all me formula | Sale to the up contage of all me formula | Sale to the up contage of all me formula | Sale to the up contage of all me formula | Sale to the up contage of all me formula | Sale to the up contage of all me formula | Sale to the up contage of all me formula | Sale to the up contage of all me formula | Sale to the up contage of all me formula | Sale to the up contage of all me formula | Sale to the up contage of all me formula | Sale to the up contage of all me formula | Sale to the up contage of all me formula | Sale to the up contage of all me formula | Sale to the up contage of all me formula | Sale to the up contage of all me formula | Sale to the up contage of all me formula | Sale to the up contage of all me formula | Sale to the up contage of all me formula | Sale to the up contage of all me formula | Sale to the up contage of all me formula | Sale to the up contage of all me formula | Sale to the up contage of all me formula | Sale to the up contage of all me formula | Sale to the up contage of all me formula | Sale to the up contage of all me formula | Sale to the up contage of all me formula | Sale to the up contage of all me formula | Sale to the up contage of all me formula | Sale to the up contage o

KAIR Method

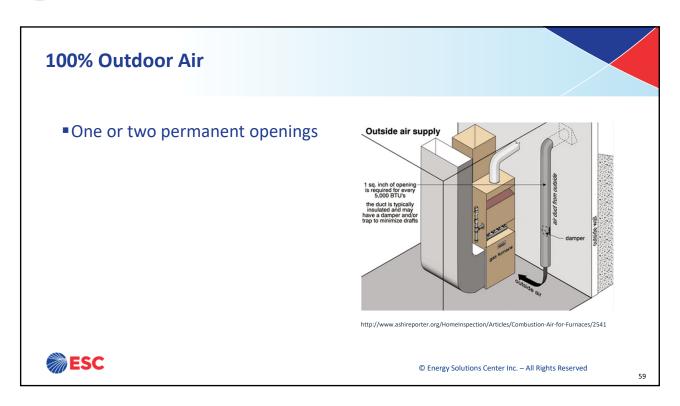
- ■KAIR Method must be used if 0.40 ACH and lower
- Calculations based on ACH and whether the appliance is fan-assisted or has a draft hood
- Fan-assisted found to require less air no dilution air
- ■Upper ACH limit on use of KAIR method is 0.60

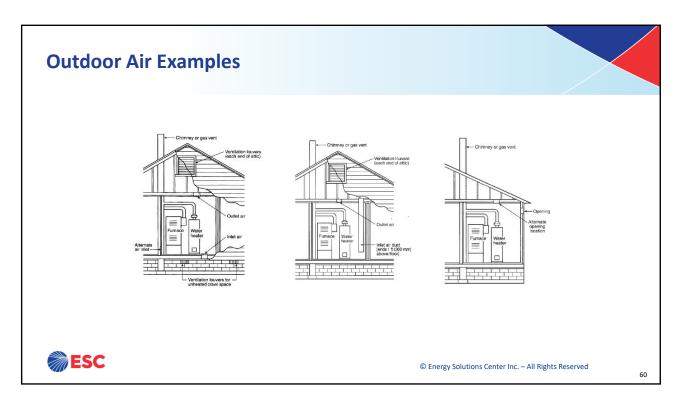


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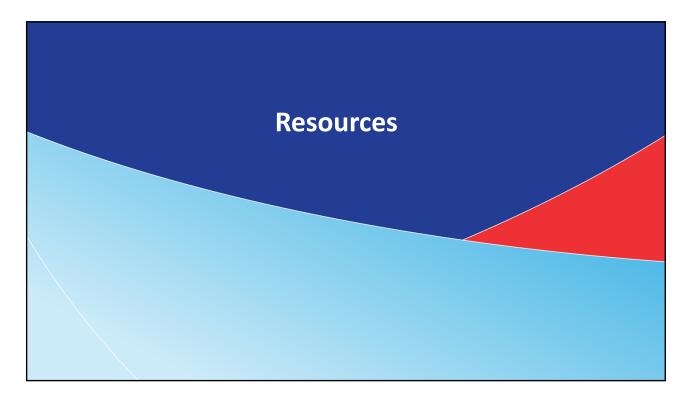






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Associations & Resources

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 - Located in Washington, DC
 - Consortium of utility companies
 - www.escenter.org





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Associations & Resources

- ■AGA American Gas Association
 - Located in Washington, DC
 - Trade association for utility companies
 - Helps develop Codes and Standards
 - www.aga.org





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Associations & Resources

- National Fire Protection Association
- NFPA develops, publishes, and disseminates more than 300 consensus codes and standards
- ■More than 65,000 individual members
- Authors NFPA 54: National Fuel Gas Code
- www.nfpa.org







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Associations & Resources

- ■International Code Council
- A member-focused association dedicated to developing model codes and standards used in the design, build and compliance process to construct safe, sustainable, affordable and resilient structures
- Located in Washington, DC
- www.iccsafe.org





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Additional References

- Simpson Dura-Vent Sizing Handbook
- Dura-Vent Type B Gas Vent Systems



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