

*Please note the following are some of the new requirements of the 2015 Minnesota State Building Code with the adopted 2012 energy conservation code for mechanical installations for new residential structures.*

- Forced air furnace systems are required to be provided with programmable thermostats. The initial setting must be programmed with a maximum heating limit at 70°F and cooling at no lower than 78°F.
- Building cavities shall not be used as ducts or plenums.
- All exhaust, supply and return air ducts and plenums on the interior of the structure shall be insulated to a minimum of R3.3 for a minimum distance of three feet from the exterior or unconditioned space and shall have a vapor barrier over the insulation.
- All exhaust, supply and return air ducts and plenums exterior of the structure envelope shall be insulated to a minimum of R8 and shall have a vapor barrier over the insulation. If the duct or plenum is open to the elements the insulation shall also have a weather protective barrier over the vapor barrier.
- All ducts, air handlers and filter boxes shall be sealed. If any of the ducts are outside the building envelope then the ducts shall be tested for air leakage at rough in and at final inspection in compliance with R403.2.2.
- Mechanical ventilation is mandatory. The building shall be balanced to within 10% of the code requirements for the structure (see R403.5 for more information).
- All conditioned unfinished basements and crawl spaces shall have a minimum ventilation of 0.01 CFM per sq.ft. or a minimum of one supply and one return, separated by ½ the diagonal dimension of the basement.
- All ventilation intake and exhaust hoods shall include a permanent, weather resistant identification label on the building exterior.
- Blower door testing required with a maximum of 3 air exchanges per hour at 0.2 inches water column.
- Sunrooms have special construction and mechanical requirements. Windows must be .45 U factor or less; skylights must be .70 U factor or less, and must have separate mechanical equipment.
- Documentation shall be posted in a conspicuous and readily accessible location for proper operation and maintenance for all mechanical ventilation equipment.