

# Ventilation Systems

Technical Introduction and Implementation

# LowTEMP training package - OVERVIEW

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Intro Energy Supply Systems and LTDH

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Ventilation Systems

## Best Practice

Best Practice I

Best Practice II

# 1. Technical Introduction

General function

Different heat recovery systems

# Technical Introduction

## Ventilation systems instead of window ventilation

- Provision of fresh air → increased quality of indoor air → increased occupant's well-being
- Centralized / decentralized ventilation systems → management / monitoring of air exchange
- Possibility of heat recovery → significant energy saving potentials

# Technical Introduction

## Common natural and mechanical ventilation systems

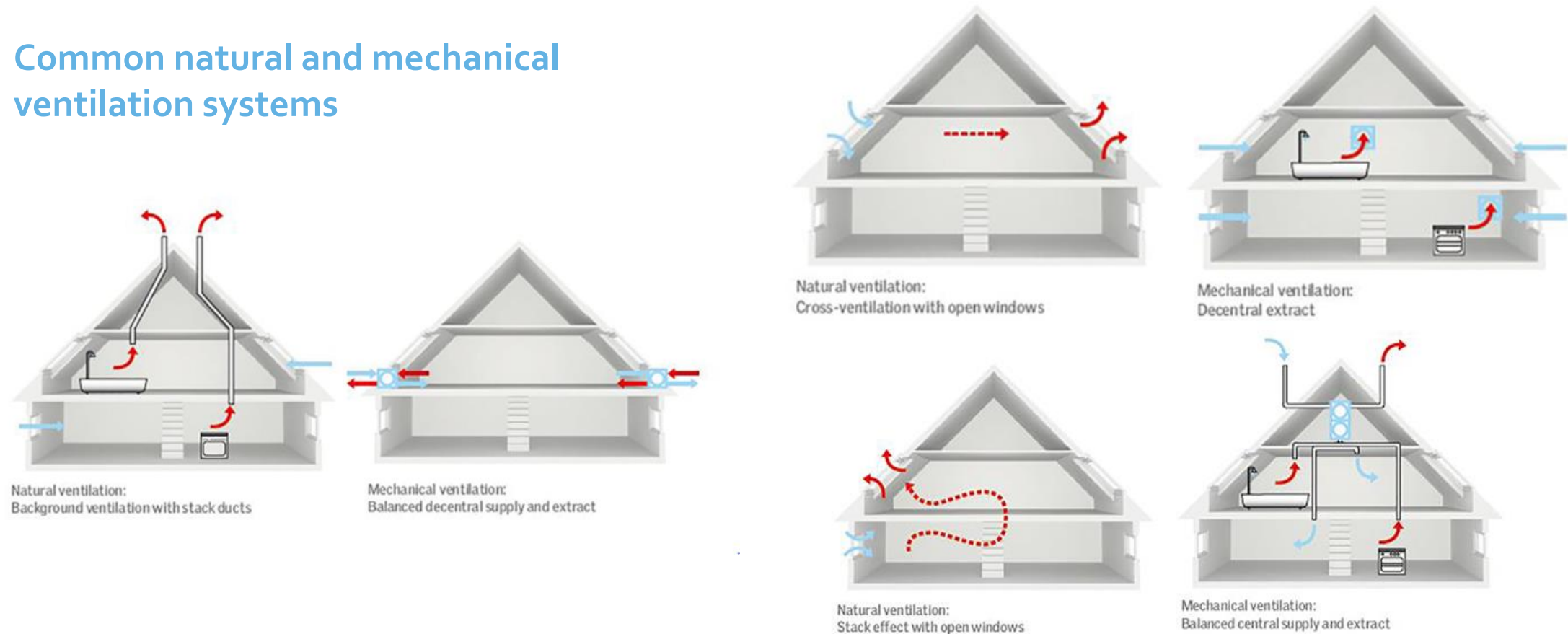


Figure 1: Ventilation systems. Source: Velux Group [1]

# Technical Introduction

## Centralised and decentralised ventilation systems

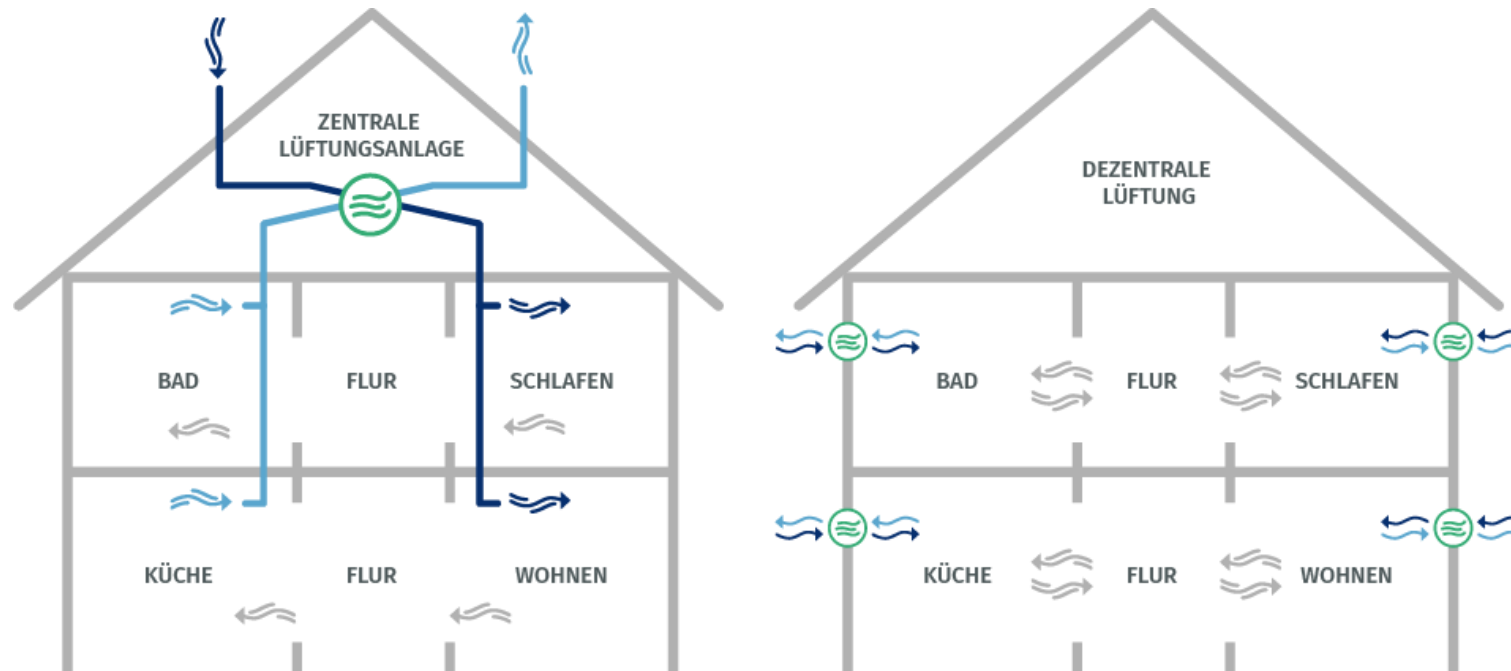


Figure 2: Centralised and decentralised ventilation systems. Source: Dierker Luft und Klima GmbH [2]

# Technical Introduction

## General function of heat recovery

- Winter

cold outside air is preheated by the warm extracted indoor air and filtered

- Summer nights

cool outside air is directed indoors via a bypass

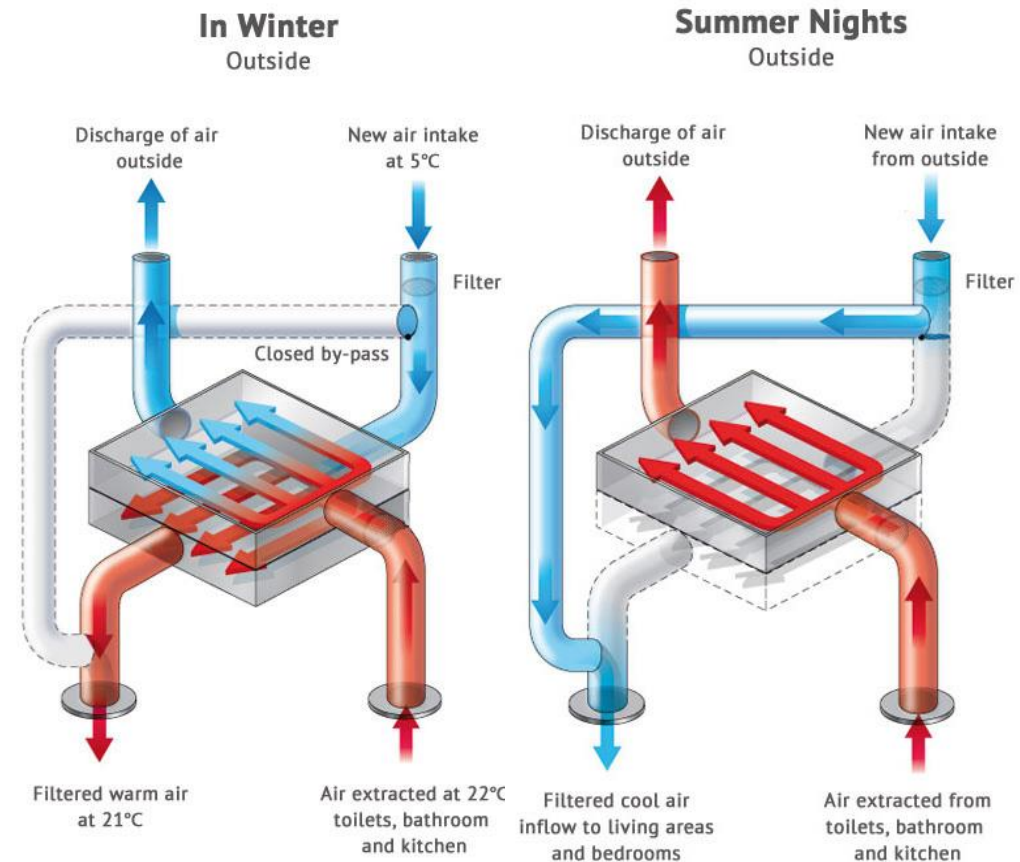


Figure 3: Seasonal situations of heat recovery systems. Source: Atlantics Australasia [3]

# Technical Introduction

## Main components of ventilation systems with heat recovery

- Fresh air intake & exhaust air outlet protected by screen
- Heat exchange core different systems available
- Fresh air outlet & stale air intake supported by circulation fans
- Filters at air intakes: pollen and dust can be filtered
- Drain for condensate
- Control unit

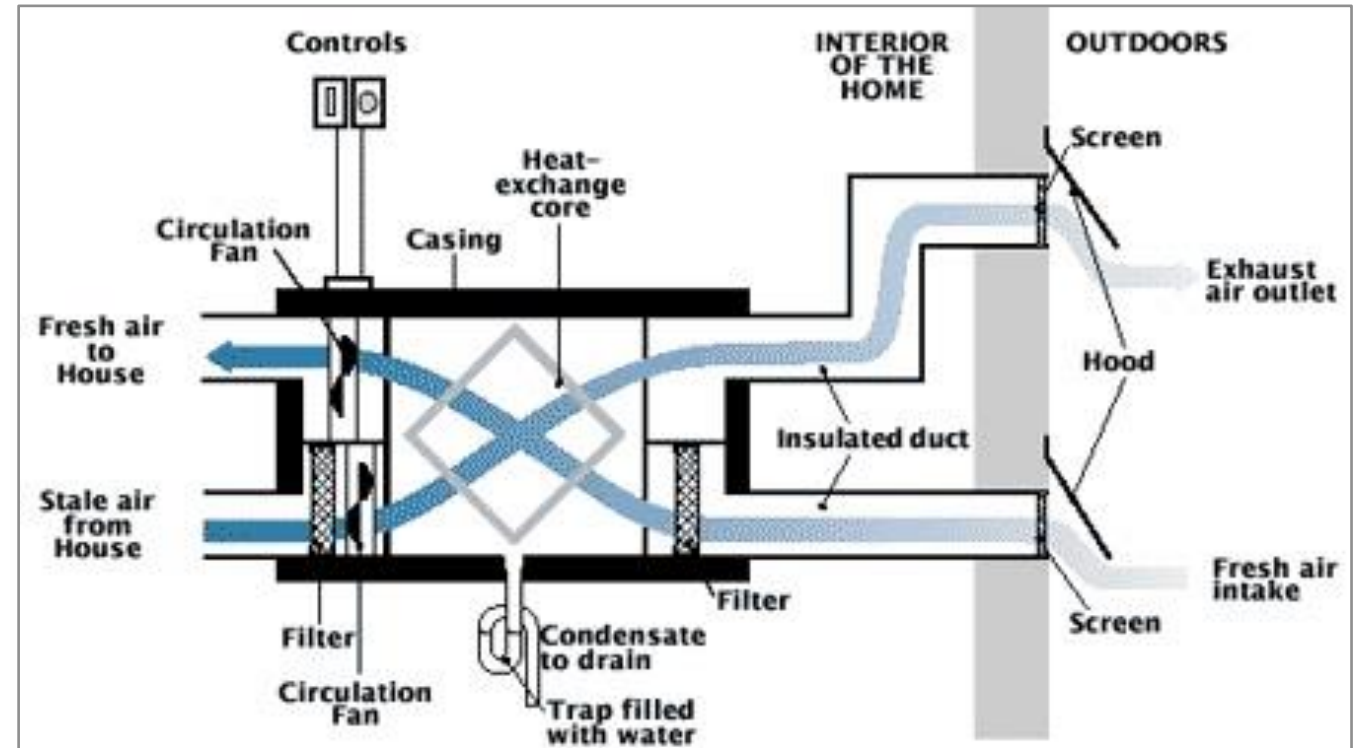


Figure 4: Components of a heat recovery ventilator. Source: One House Green [4]



# Technical Introduction

## Recuperative heat recovery

- Heat is directly transferred from one airstream to another via a metal sheet
- No connection between the two airstreams  
→ no contamination

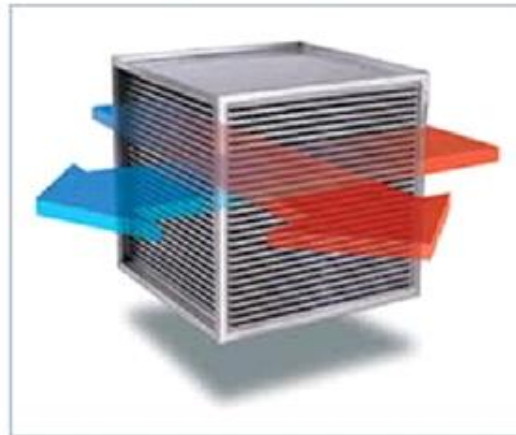
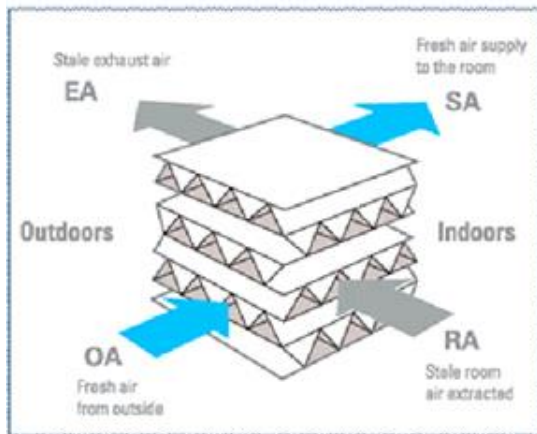


Figure 5: Plate heat exchanger. Source: NFAN [5]

## Plate heat exchanger

- Package of thin metal/plastic sheets with small spacing between them
- Warm and cold airstream are alternately directed through these spaces
- Heat is transferred from one airstream to the other
- High efficiency rates

# Technical Introduction

## Regenerative heat recovery

- Heat is transferred to a solid or liquid intermediate medium
  - Medium transfers the heat to the cold outdoor air
- Heat is buffered and then later released

## Examples

- Rotary thermal wheels
- Heat pipes
- Circuit connected system

# Technical Introduction

## Rotary thermal wheels

- Wheel turns 5-20 times per minute
- Consists of metal sheets  
→ thermal storage mass
- Heat is transferred from extract air to the wheel and then the outside air  
→ preheating the supply air

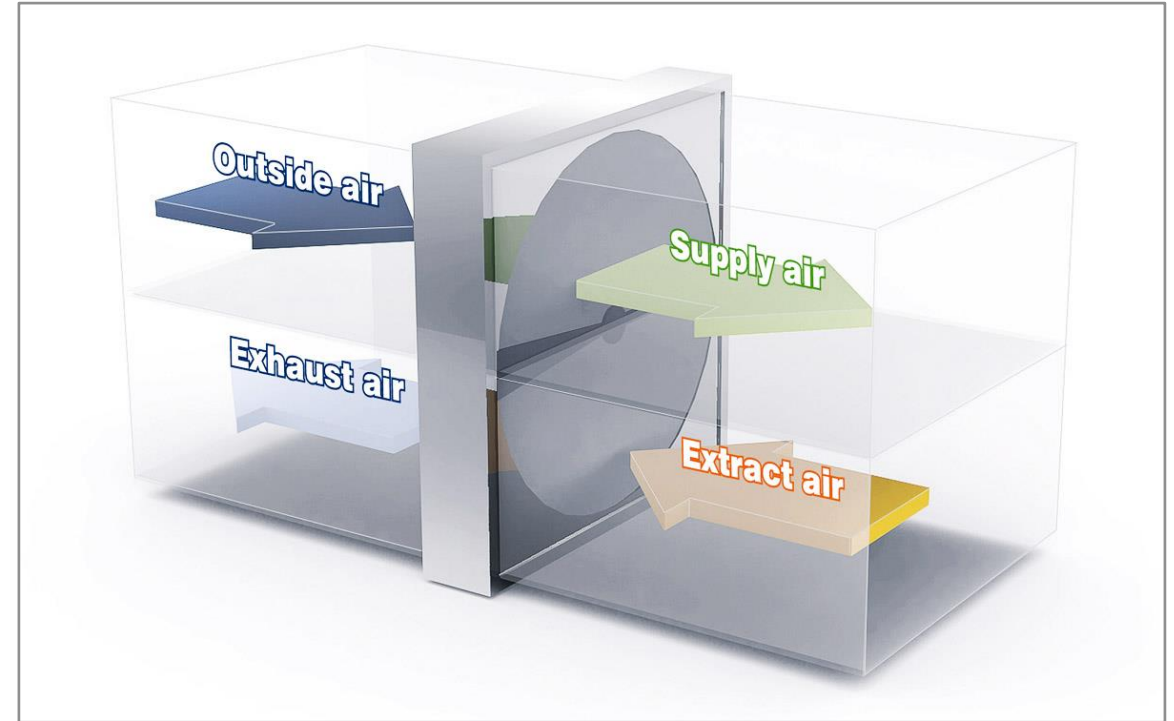


Figure 6: Rotary thermal wheel. Source: Klingenburg USA [6]

# Technical Introduction

## Heat pipes

- Heat pipes are filled with a refrigerant liquid
- Warm extract air functions as the heat source  
→ heat leads to evaporation of refrigerant liquid
- Vapour rises to the other end of the heat pipe
- Cold outdoor air passes this end of the heat pipe  
→ vapour liquifies and releases the heat
- Supply air is preheated and refrigerant liquified  
→ cycle starts again

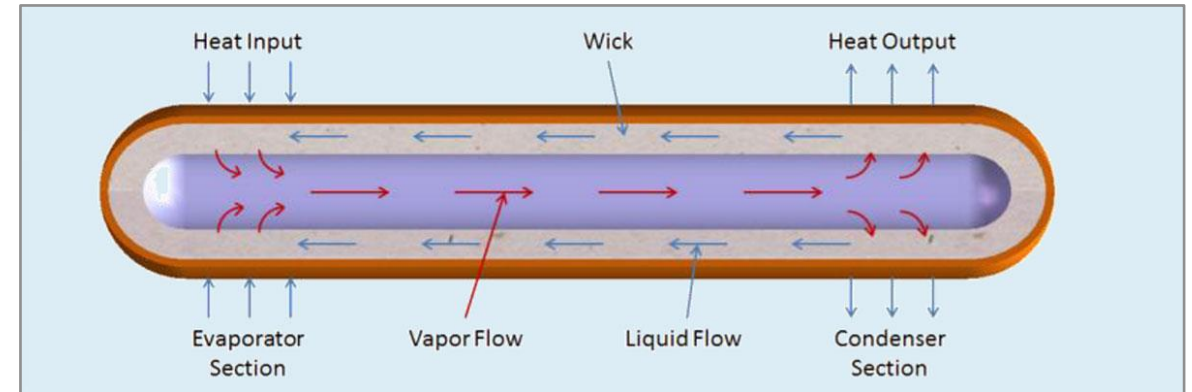


Figure 7: Principle of heat pipes. Source: Cooliance [7]

# Technical Introduction

## Circuit connected system

- Airstreams are separated and can be installed separately
  - Heat transfer medium is circulating in a pipe system
- heat is transferred from the warm exhaust air to the medium and then to the cold outside air
- the same mechanism works for cool summer nights precooling the supply air

# Technical Introduction

## Advantages and disadvantages of different heat recovery systems

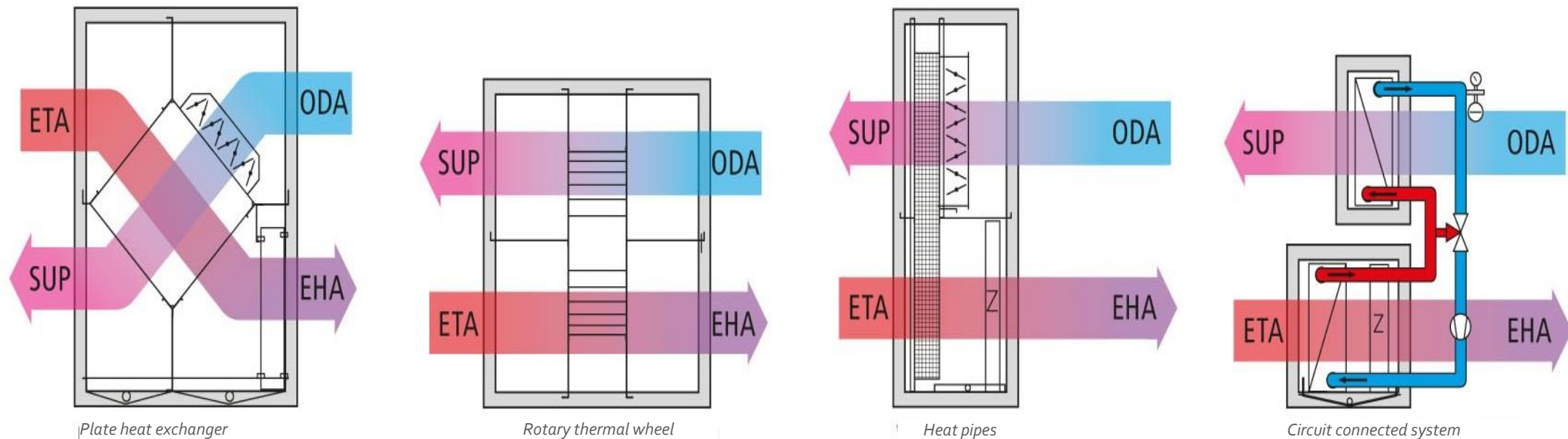


Figure 8: Heat recovery systems. Source: KLAISS GmbH Apuso Lüftungstechnik [8]

# Technical Introduction

HEAT RECOVERY SYSTEM	ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
Plate heat exchanger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No contamination</li> <li>Fixed parts, high reliability</li> <li>High heat transfer coefficient</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited to two airstreams</li> <li>Condensation</li> </ul>
Rotary thermal wheel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compact design</li> <li>High efficiency</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Energy input required</li> <li>Cross contamination of airstreams</li> </ul>
Heat pipes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Heat recovery in two directions possible</li> <li>Compact design</li> <li>Fixed parts, high reliability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires close localization of air streams</li> <li>Moving parts, maintenance necessary</li> </ul>
Circuit connected system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Airstreams can be separate</li> <li>No contamination</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pumps are required to move the liquid</li> <li>Rather low efficiency</li> <li>Difficult to integrate</li> </ul>

# Technical Introduction

## Ventilation system with an earth heat exchanger

- **Earth to air:**  
outside air is directed in a pipe 1,5m-2m beneath the ground  
→ air is preheated/precooled due to constant ground temperature
- **Earth to medium to air:**  
heat exchange medium is directed in pipes 2m beneath the ground  
→ medium is preheated/precooled due to constant ground temperature  
→ heat is transferred from medium to cold outdoor air  
→ the same mechanism works for cool summer nights (precooling)



# Technical Introduction

## Heat recovery and heat pumps

- **Hot water heat pump:**

heat pump extracts warm air from building

→ heats up drinking water

→ connected water storage system has to be available

- **Air heating and heat pump:**

heat pump extracts warm air from building

→ heats up supply air

→ heat pump can heat up the air so no additional heating is required

# Technical Introduction

## Exhaust air heat pump

- A:** warm room air is drawn into the duct system
- B:** warm room air is led to F 730
- C:** After passing F730, the room air is discharged to the outside, which lowers the air temperature
- D:** F730 supplies the building with service water and heating heat
- E:** Outside air is fed into the building and heated as required
- F:** Air is led from rooms with outdoor valves into rooms with exhaust air valves

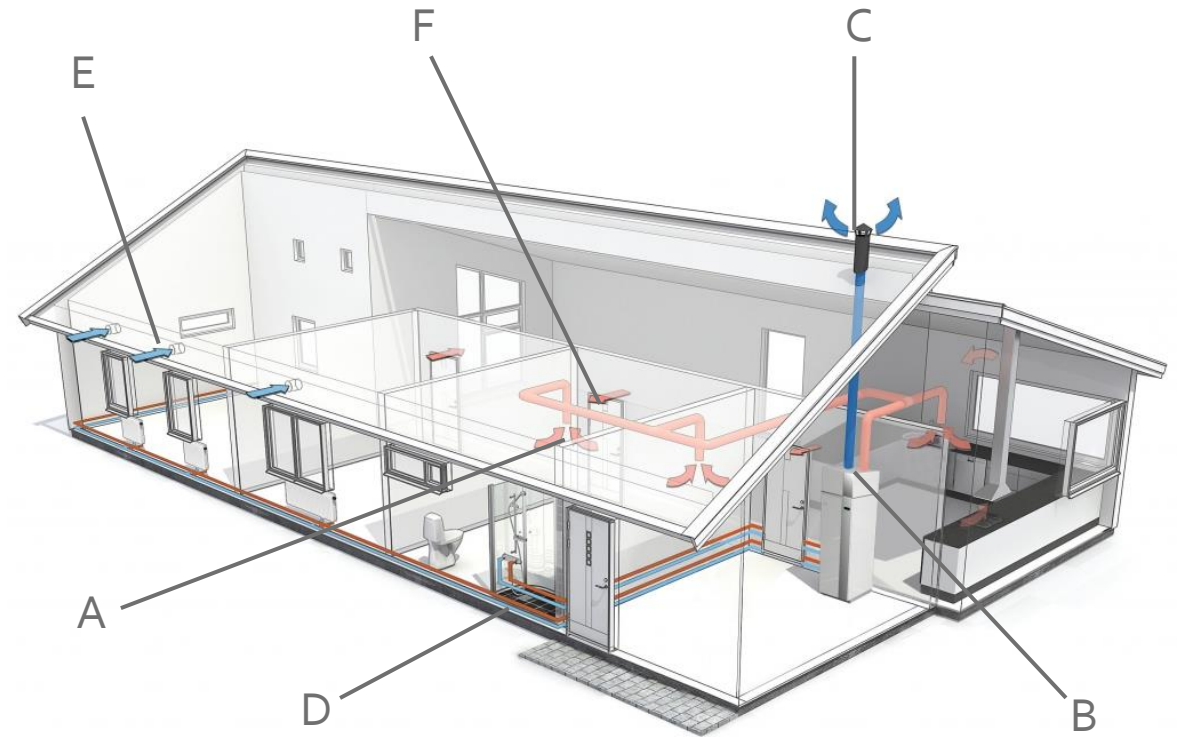


Figure 9: Functional principle of exhaust air heat pump. Source: NIBE Systemtechnik GmbH [9]

# Technical Introduction

## Example Plant (NIBE 730/NIBE 750)

- Specially developed for modern houses with low heating requirements
- Basic units combine heating, domestic hot water and controlled domestic ventilation and heat recovery
- Used in single-family houses and apartment buildings with a living area between 75 and 200 m<sup>2</sup>
- Basic unit does not require more space than a household appliance



Figure 10: NIBE 730/NIBE 750. Source: NIBE Systemtechnik GmbH [10]

## 2. Implementation

Planning and design

Examples decentralised ventilation units/systems

# Implementation

## Planning and design - Unit size and distribution box

- The unit size is based on air flow volume and design
- Operation planned at 75% of max. -> system resistance
- Distribution box made out of metal sheets
- Mounted on the walls, under the ceiling, in ceiling or on the floor

# Implementation

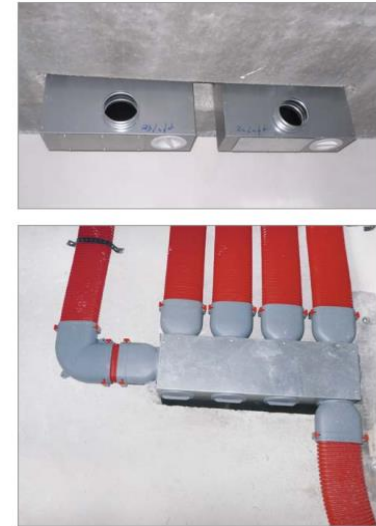
## Planning and design - Supply and exhaust air pipe system

- Installation in the concrete ceiling (1)
- Laying in the shaft (2)
- Installation on the floor (3)
- Installation under the ceiling (4) in frame construction

(1)



(3)



(2)



(4)

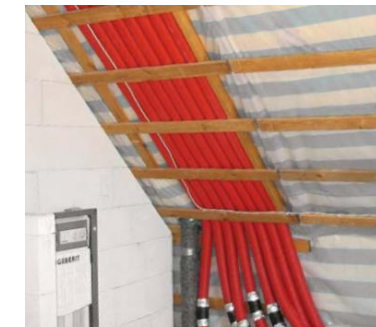


Figure 11: Planning and design. Source: Vallox GmbH [11]

# Implementation

## Planning and design - Silencers

- Ventilation generates noise, that is transferred via the ductwork
- To prevent noise pollution silencers are installed in the pipe system
- German DIN standard requires <30 dB in recreation rooms
- Dense residential development can call for additional silencers

# Implementation

## Planning and design - Diffusers

- The air outlets are to be installed in an accessible way for cleaning, maintenance
- Can be installed in walls or ceilings, designed to allow good air flow through the room
- Supply Air:
  - Not behind curtains, cupboards or other furniture, not directly above living area (bed, sofa)
- Exhaust air:
  - As high as possible under the ceiling, not directly above radiators
  - In close proximity to odour and moisture sources (toilet, shower)
  - Kitchen fumes are extracted with filters to prevent grease pollution



# Technical Introduction

## Decentralised fan (Inventer) with heat recovery

- Two airflows pass through a copper heat exchanger located inside the working module
- Two airways are separated from each other, both inside the working module and the „input-output“
- Installation of filters is possible

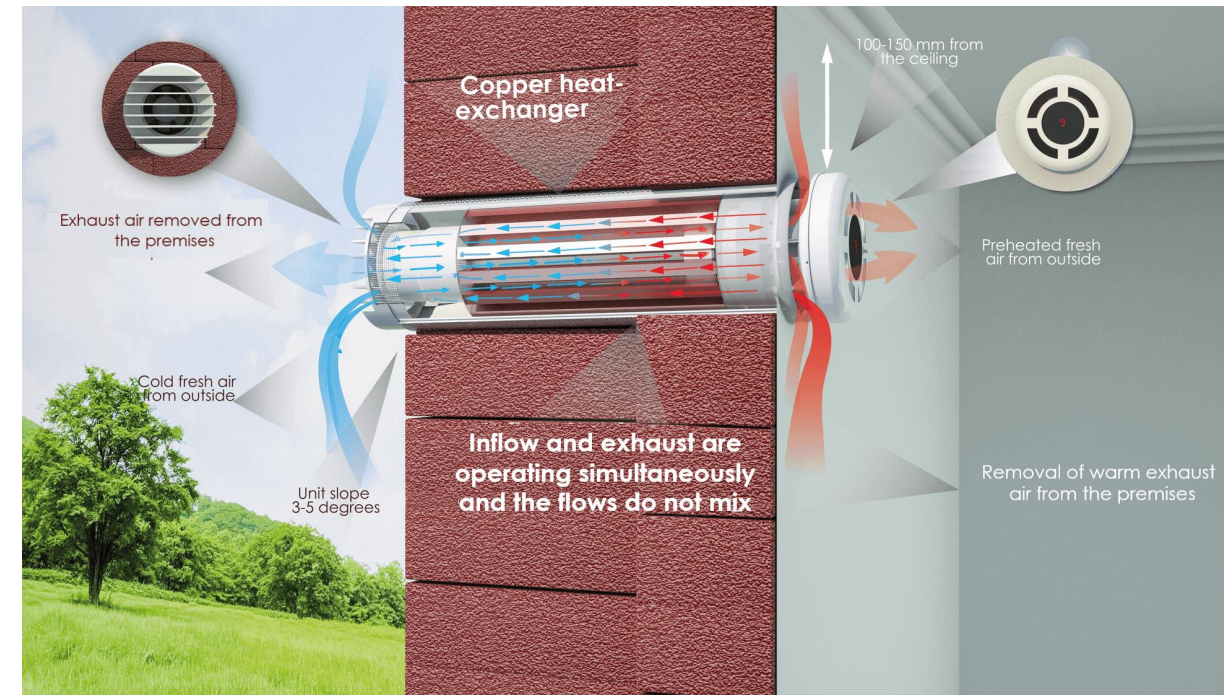


Figure 12: Prana ventilation system with heat recovery. Source: Ecostream [12]

# Technical Introduction

## Decentralised ventilation unit with heat recovery

- Components:  
ceramic heat accumulator, reversing fan  
double air deflectors for straightening the air flow,  
filters for all hygienic requirements,  
lockable inner panel, powder coated,  
driving rain-proof weather protection hood
- Inner ceramic core stores the heat
- Direction change after 70 seconds of rotation
- Ventilation system is operated by appropriate controllers

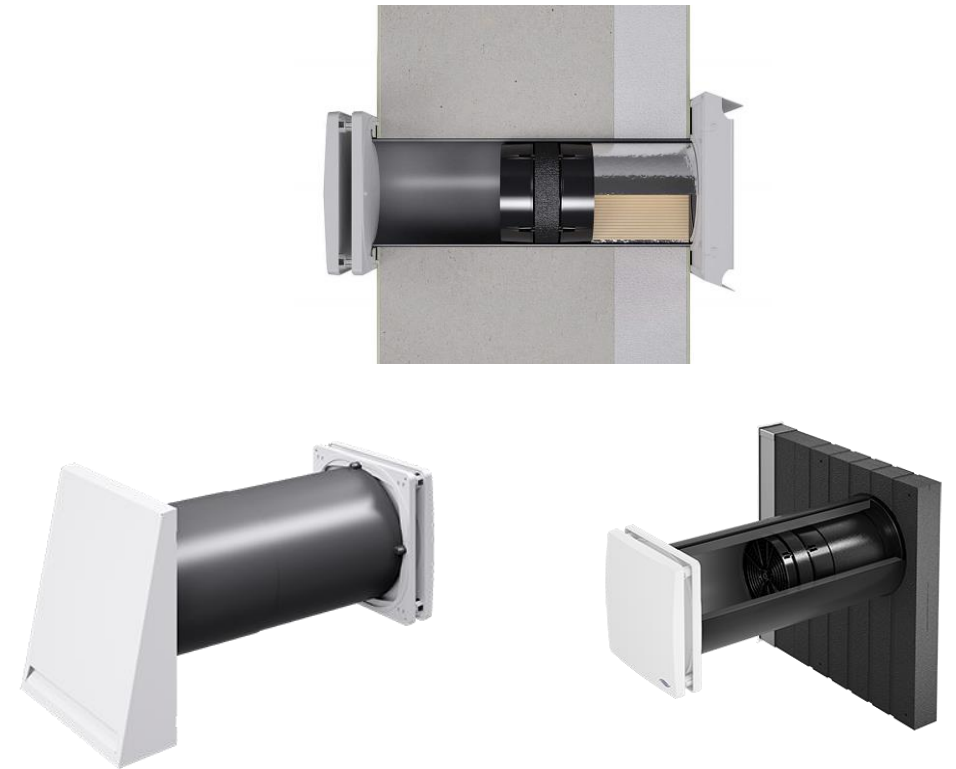


Figure 13: Prana ventilation system with heat recovery, source: inVENTer GmbH [13]

# Implementation

## Decentralised ventilation systems for window reveals

- Polish company EWTG developed a thermal ventilation system for window frames
- Decentralised ventilation, can be added to existing buildings
- Allows the supply air to mingle with the inside air  
-> preheated air
- Has a patented valve that allows constant air flow regardless of atmospheric conditions

# Implementation

## Decentralised ventilation systems for window reveals

- Is particularly suitable for installation on exterior walls with insulation, e. g. as part of a building renovation
- The wall opening must be in the immediate vicinity of a window, as the air inlet and outlet is through a ventilation grille in the window reveal
- The flat duct is laid inside the insulation towards the window reveal

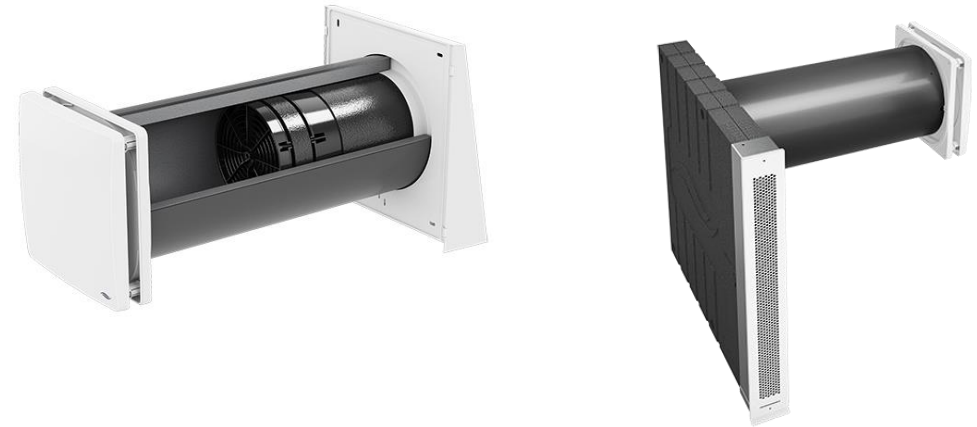


Figure 14: Decentralised ventilation system for window reveals. Source: inVENTer GmbH [14]

# Implementation

## Decentralised ventilation systems for window reveals

- Aesthetic integration of the external and exhaust air ducting on the house facade
- Excellent sound insulation values
  - Reduces the intrusion of external noise and expands the planning possibilities
- Perfectly suited for inner-city living areas



Figure 15: Decentralised ventilation system for window reveals. Source: Zehnder Group Deutschland GmbH [15]

# Conclusion

- Ventilation systems enable the controlling and monitoring of the air exchange of a building. This way the air can also be filtered.
- Integrated heat recovery uses the energy of the exhaust air to preheat or precool the fresh supply air. This can result in significant energy saving potentials and economical benefits.
- The choice of the appropriate system depends on the situation and must be carefully chosen to ensure an ideal utilization.

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