

# Air Exchangers...by Inspector Weeks

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As a home Inspector I am in a lot of different homes. I feel it is my responsibility to be up to date on current issues related to Home Inspection and a home's mechanical equipment. These items include: the Furnace, Air Conditioner, Hot Water Heaters, Plumbing and Electrical systems. One Item that has recently been in the news is the Air Exchanger, often referred to as an HRV (Heat Recovery Ventilator). The concept behind the use of an air exchanger is to improve indoor air quality and reduce unwanted humidity.

Air exchangers employ advanced technology to efficiently expel excess humidity, reduce gaseous pollutants and bring a continuous supply of fresh outdoor air into the home. Only an air exchanger can perform this task.

Unfortunately, however, many of these units have been the subject of a rather significant recall. There are 232,753 of these affected units in Canada. The Fire Marshal's Office is urging consumers to check if they have a HRV system installed in their home with the potential to overheat and ignite. Venmar Ventilation has implemented a Safety Upgrade Program for certain models of Heat Recovery Ventilators produced between 1991 and 2001. Units manufactured before 1991 and after 2001 are not affected. Venmar Ventilation is asking owners of the affected unit to Immediately turn off and unplug their unit and to contact Venmar as soon as possible. If you are uncertain as to whether you have one of these affected units, you would be advised to go on-line at [www.venmar.ca](http://www.venmar.ca) or go to HRV recall information at <http://www.oahi.com/reading/HRVAlert.pdf>. Not all HRV systems are affected, so take a few minutes now and check to see if this recall applies to you.

I welcome your questions please forward them to, Inspector Weeks, c/o Peter Weeks Home Inspections [PWHI@sympatico.ca](mailto:PWHI@sympatico.ca) or by phone at 613.290.3697.

**Peter Weeks** has been a Chelsea resident for 17 years. As a general contractor since 1988, he has been doing **Residential Home Inspections** for about three years. He is an Associate Member of OAH (Ontario Association of Home Inspectors), CAHPI (Canadian Association of Home & Property Inspectors) and a member of the BBB and BNI. **He is a Qualified and Fully Insured Inspector.** You may Visit his Website at [www.PWHOMEINSPECTIONS.COM](http://www.PWHOMEINSPECTIONS.COM).