

Households Urged to Check Filters on Clean Air Day

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Sussex-based Vent-Axia (<http://www.vent-axia.com>), a leading British ventilation manufacturer, is urging households to check their ventilation filters for Clean Air Day on Thursday, 20 June 2019. Clean Air Day is co-ordinated by environmental charity Global Action Plan and aims to raise awareness of the risks of air pollution and the simple things everyone can do to improve their air quality and health. One simple thing households can do to help improve indoor air quality and their health is to check whether the air filters in their ventilation systems need cleaning or changing.

Many households in new build properties may be unaware that their whole house ventilation systems, such as mechanical ventilation with heat recovery (MVHR), have filters that need to be checked every three or six months, cleaned regularly and replaced twice a year. The purpose of an MVHR filter is to filter out microscopic particles like PM2.5 (including fine diesel particulates) dust and pollen so they are not brought into the home from outside. However, a dirty blocked filter can recirculate these particles into the home adversely affecting indoor air quality (IAQ). Dirty filters can also affect the efficiency of the ventilation system which affects its effectiveness.

“We are pleased to support Clean Air Day as it continues to raise awareness of the importance of clean air, particularly indoor air quality, and how everyone can make changes to improve their IAQ and their health. Poor indoor air quality is responsible for around 99,000 deaths in Europe every year – the equivalent of one death every six minutes. To help improve indoor air quality, this year for Clean Air Day we are encouraging households to check their ventilation filters,” said Jenny Smith, Head of Marketing at Vent-Axia. “It is very simple to check and change a filter only taking a couple of minutes but it will help improve air quality in the home and help your ventilation run more efficiently. At Vent-Axia we are committed to sharing our knowledge of how ventilation can help protect public health.”

The purpose of Clean Air Day is to increase understanding of the risks and educate everyone on how to reduce air pollution and improve IAQ. In the past, the focus was on outdoor air pollution, but Clean Air Day aims to highlight the devastating health impacts of poor IAQ too. A staggering 65% of homes in the UK suffer from poor IAQ as a result of inadequate ventilation. Poor air quality is proven to negatively impact on everyone’s health, increasing the risk of serious illnesses and making existing conditions, like respiratory disorders, worse.

In January this year the importance of good air quality was confirmed with launch of the Government’s Clean Air Strategy which sets out how the UK aims to tackle all sources of air pollution with IAQ a key part of this. This strategy followed on from a number of reports and documents that all outline the importance of good IAQ and the risks associated with indoor air pollution. The Government White Paper Building our Future: Laying the Foundations for Healthy Homes and Buildings, published in October 2018, reported that poor IAQ costs the UK over 204,000 healthy life years, with 45% of those lost to cardiovascular diseases, 23% to asthma and allergy and 15% to lung cancer. And in 2016 the Royal College of Physicians warned that indoor air pollutants cause, at a minimum, thousands of deaths per year and are associated with healthcare costs in the order of ‘tens of millions of pounds’.

To help protect health in the home, Vent-Axia has been working hard to provide ventilation solutions to improve IAQ for households. For new build homes, Vent-Axia's Sentinel Kinetic (<https://www.vent-axia.com/range/lo-carbon-sentinel-kinetic>) mechanical ventilation with heat recovery (MVHR) system boasts an impressive 94% heat recovery. A vital part of an MVHR system is its filters. Inside an MVHR unit, fresh incoming air passes through a filter to remove pollen, debris and products of pollution. Filters up to ISO ePM2.5 70% (F7 grade) ensure even homes in heavily urbanised areas can filter out most impurities, up to and including PM2.5 particles, for example diesel particulates. To ensure MVHR systems run efficiently and effectively Vent-Axia also offers ventilation servicing to maintain the systems and check and replace filters as needed.

For private refurbishments, Vent-Axia's new PureAir Sense (<https://www.vent-axia.com/range/pureairsense>) is equipped with a pioneering odour sensor that increases airflow when the air is poor, helping ensure a comfortable living environment. Meanwhile the Lo-Carbon Revive (<https://www.vent-axia.com/product/lo-carbon-revive>) has been designed specifically with social housing in mind offering an effective continuous ventilation solution for residents.

As well as urging households to check their filters for Clean Air Day Vent-Axia is also supporting the initiative by asking its staff to leave their cars at home on 20 June to help reduce air pollution on the day.

To find out more about Clean Air Day visit www.cleanairday.org.uk/. For up-to-date ventilation guidance visit: www.vent-axia.com/healthyhomes. For information on filters visit: www.vent-axia.com/filters. For further information on all products and services offered by Vent-Axia, telephone 0844 856 0590 or visit <http://www.vent-axia.com>.

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Notes for Editors

- Boasting over 80 years' experience, Vent-Axia is the ventilation sector's clear leader, chief innovator and forerunner in energy-saving, lo-carbon products. Committed to helping improve indoor air quality and comfort in both homes and buildings, Vent-Axia provides the sector's most comprehensive choice from any single manufacturer. Vent-Axia's range covers not just air movement and ventilation technologies but heat recovery, electric heating, hand dryers, cooling and clean-air systems for residential, commercial, public sector and industrial applications.

- Clean Air Day 2019: Air Pollution affects us all from our first breath to our last and harms the health of millions. But there are lots of simple things we can do to improve air quality and look after our own and other people's health.

Clean Air Day is the UK's biggest air pollution campaign. It's a chance to find out more about air pollution, share information, and make the air cleaner and healthier for everyone. Find out more at www.cleanairday.org.uk.

- Research published by the Royal College of Physicians (RCP) on air quality and its impact on public health, published in collaboration with Lancet Countdown in October 2017, found that 44 UK cities were in breach of recommended World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines for fine particulate matter (PM2.5). PM2.5 refers to atmospheric particulate matter (PM) with a diameter less than 2.5 micrometers and it is among the air pollutants which has the greatest impact on human health, including respiratory and cardiovascular diseases. A main contributor to this form of air pollution is diesel combustion from cars and other diesel-powered vehicles.