



PUBLIC SAFETY NOTICE



POTENTIAL FIRE CONCERNS

Potential Fire Hazard Due to Heat Recovery Ventilation Systems

The Office of the Fire Marshal and North Bay Fire & Emergency Services are advising homeowners that homes with **heat recovery ventilation (HRV) systems** manufactured by **Venmar Ventilation Inc.** may be at risk of fire. The thermal protector in the motors of these systems can fail and pose a potential fire hazard.

Certain HRV models produced and installed between 1991 and 2001, and between October 2006 and August 2007, are affected. While Venmar manufactured these models, to date, the affected units were identified with the following brand names:

- Venmar Brand
- Venmar AVS Brand
- Flair Brand
- vänEE Brand
- Conformax Brand
- Carrier, Bryant Brands
- Payne
- Day & Night
- NuTone Brand
- Heil Brand
- York Brand
- Sears Brand
- Guardian by Broan Brand
- Rheem Brands
- Ruud-Protect-Weatherking
- Bryant, Carrier Brands (standard model)

Homeowners with Venmar HRV systems manufactured and installed during the above periods should **immediately turn off and unplug their unit**. Homeowners should then **contact Venmar at 1-866-441-4645, or at www.venmar.ca**, to determine if their unit is affected.

Following investigations of two home fires in Burlington in 2006, Venmar is supplying a power plug adaptor to homeowners with affected units. Venmar asks homeowners to install the power plug on the HRV's power supply cord. The adaptor is intended to cut the power supply to prevent a fire.

Venmar has confirmed that about 10% of Ontario homes with affected HRV units have been contacted and provided with power plug adaptors. That leaves over 51,000 Ontario homes at risk of potential fire. Furthermore, independent tests have shown that even with the adaptor installed, when the internal fan motor reaches end of life or a locked rotor condition, homeowners can experience strong electrical or burning smells and smoke conditions in their homes prior to the activation of the plug adaptor. These conditions can continue for extended periods of time.

If you have an HRV in your home and you experience strong electrical or burning smells and/or smoke conditions, immediately unplug the unit and call 9-1-1 to have the fire department respond to confirm the source of the smells or smoke.

Homeowners are also reminded to install and maintain working smoke alarms on every storey of the home and outside all sleeping areas. It's the law.

For more information contact North Bay Fire & Emergency Services 474-5662