



Active Ventilation Products

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IBC-21

Section 1202

VENTILATION

1202.2 Roof Ventilation

Roof assemblies shall be ventilated in accordance with this section or shall comply with Section 1202.3.

1202.2.1 Ventilated attics and rafter spaces.

Enclosed attics and enclosed rafter spaces formed where ceilings are applied directly to the underside of roof framing members shall have cross ventilation for each separate space by ventilation opening protected against the entrance of rain and snow. Blocking and bridging shall be arranged so as not to interfere with the movement of air. An airspace of not less than 1 inch (25 mm) shall be provided between the insulation and the roof sheathing. The net free ventilating area shall not be less than 1/150 of the area of the space ventilated. Ventilators shall be installed in accordance with manufacturer's installation instructions.

Exception: The net free cross-ventilation area shall be permitted to be reduced to 1/300 provided both of the following conditions are met:

1. In climate zones 6, 7 and 8, a Class I or II vapor retarder is installed on the warm-in-winter side of the ceiling.
2. At least 40 percent and not more than 50 percent of the required venting area is provided by ventilators located in the upper portion of the attic or rafter space. Upper ventilators shall be located not more than 3 feet (914 mm) below the ridge or highest point of the space, measured vertically, with the balance of the ventilation provided by eave or cornice vents. Where the location of wall or roof framing members conflicts with the installation of upper ventilators, installation more than 3 feet (914 mm) below the ridge or highest point of the space shall be permitted.

Interpretation For Flat & Pitch Roofs:

The ventilation requirement is 1/150. Meaning 1 square foot of ventilation for every 150 square feet of attic floor. The distribution is 1/2 a square foot of intake and 1/2 a square foot of exhaust. Another calculation that would be easier to work with is 1 sq ft of intake and 1 sq ft of exhaust for every 300 sq feet of attic floor.

There is an exception to the above rule. A 100% increase in attic floor allowance is given (from 150 sq ft to 300 sq ft) provided that two provisions are provided.

1. The distance between the ventilators in relation to their height is 3 feet. This does not mean 3 feet of distance between them. The distance could be for example 150 feet apart but the difference in elevation is 3 feet. The placement is 50% of the intake vents must be in the lower portion and 50% in the upper portion (not in the middle).
- 2) A vapor barrier must be provided.

If both of the above provisions are met, then calculations are based upon the 1/300 rule. Meaning that for every 300 square feet of attic floor 1/2 a square foot of intake and 1/2 a square foot of exhaust is required. Or to base it upon 600 square feet of attic floor, 1 sq ft of intake and 1 sq ft of exhaust is needed.