

Questions to ask before installing an HRV in your GTA home

1 Check if your home is airtight (built after 1990 or heavily renovated)

Newer, tighter homes benefit most from HRVs. Older drafty homes with natural air leakage may not need one yet.

2 Test indoor humidity levels in winter

Condensation on windows or humidity above 50% indoors in January signals poor ventilation and HRV potential.

3 Check CO2 levels if occupants feel stuffy or tired indoors

A CO2 monitor (\$50 to \$150) shows whether fresh air turnover is adequate. Above 1,000 ppm is a ventilation problem.

4 Confirm your home has forced-air ductwork

Ducted HRVs connect to existing ductwork. Homes without ducts need a ductless or mini-split HRV approach.

5 Ask if your municipality building code requires an HRV

Ontario Building Code requires mechanical ventilation in new homes built after 2012. Verify with your local building department.

6 Request an HRV sizing calculation based on your home's volume

HRVs are sized in CFM (cubic feet per minute). Oversized or undersized units perform poorly.

7 Ask about annual maintenance requirements

HRV filters need cleaning every 3 months. The heat exchanger core needs annual inspection and cleaning.

Key figures at a glance

Basic HRV (installed, GTA)	\$1,200 to \$2,200
Mid-range HRV (installed, GTA)	\$2,000 to \$3,000
Premium HRV (installed, GTA)	\$2,800 to \$3,500+
Heat recovery efficiency	70% to 85% typical
Filter cleaning frequency	Every 3 months
Core cleaning frequency	Annually

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