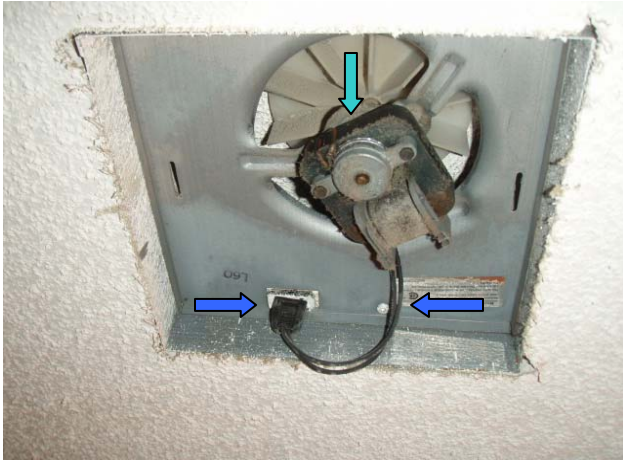


## HOME TIPS: Bathroom Exhaust Fans



Spring is just around the corner, and with spring comes the typical “spring cleaning”. There is one very important, yet often over looked item, which should be part of every homes scheduled cleaning. This is your bathroom exhaust fan(s). These fans are usually operated daily. We flick the switch on while we have a shower, then off when we leave the bathroom, and rarely give these devices a second thought. However, these units do require some cleaning and maintenance; in my opinion, twice per year.

- Step 1: Remove the grill cover and wash it with warm soapy water. Periodic cleaning of the grill cover can be done by using the soft bristle brush attachment with your vacuum to remove visible dust build up on the grill cover.*
- Step 2: Unplug the motor unit and remove the screw(s) which hold the unit in place. Then remove the fan motor unit and clean the impellers (or blower fins depending on the type of fan installed). A dust cloth can clean these units (or compressed air).*
- Step 3: Sometimes the motor units from these fans can become noisy from a lack of maintenance. Often, a few drops of lubricant around the fan motor drive shaft can quiet these units down. If lubrication is unsuccessful, most of the fan/motor units are easily replaceable. Take the unit with you to your local hardware or electrical supply store to see if they have a matching unit or can order one in for you.*
- Step 4: When finished, reinstall the motor and grill cover. Then switch the unit on and see if it will hold a couple of sheets of tissue against the grill with its suction. If the exhaust fan cannot do this, the unit should be replaced.*

Bathroom exhaust fan(s) are a very important part of our homes. They are responsible for venting the warm, moist air out of our homes, that is created by showers etc. This warm, moist air can damage ceiling and wall finishes, and cause organic growth in our bathrooms. When selecting a replacement bathroom exhaust fan, try to pick one which uses the same size ducting that is already installed for the existing fan (typically 3 inch or 4 inch). You should select a fan which gives a high amount of air movement (rated by ‘cfm’=cubic feet per minute, and has a low ‘sone’ rating, which is a measure of sound). For excellent information on choosing a bathroom exhaust fan please view this short video from the CMHC: [http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/popup/video/player\\_e.html?videourl=14](http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/popup/video/player_e.html?videourl=14)

The cleaning aspect of this task requires low skill. If you need to replace the fan unit, then a medium to high skill level is required. If you are not comfortable on ladders, or do not feel that you have the ability, required skills, or tools to complete this task, then **DO NOT ATTEMPT** this. You are better off to hire a skilled professional for this job. Remember, you are better off to be safe than sorry.