

COMBUSTION/RETURN AIR SEPARATION

2016 CALIFORNIA MECHANICAL CODE SECTION 311.0-311.4

The following are general requirements for Combustion and or return air separation based on the 2016 CA Mechanical Code. This handout is intended to provide only general information, for further information contact the Building & Safety Division.

A heating or air system shall be provided with return air, outside air or both. A heating or cooling air system regulated by the CMC and designed to replace required ventilation shall be arranged to discharge into conditioned space not less than the amount of outside air specified in Chapter 4. (CMC Section 311.1)

Outside or return air for a heating or cooling air system shall not be taken from the following locations:

- (1) Less than 10 feet in distance from an appliance vent outlet, a vent opening of a plumbing drainage system, or the discharge outlet of an exhaust fan, unless the outside is 3 feet above the outside air inlet. (CMC Section 311.1)

CMC Section 311.4 Return Air Limitations. Return air from one dwelling unit shall not discharge into another dwelling unit through the heating or cooling system.

