



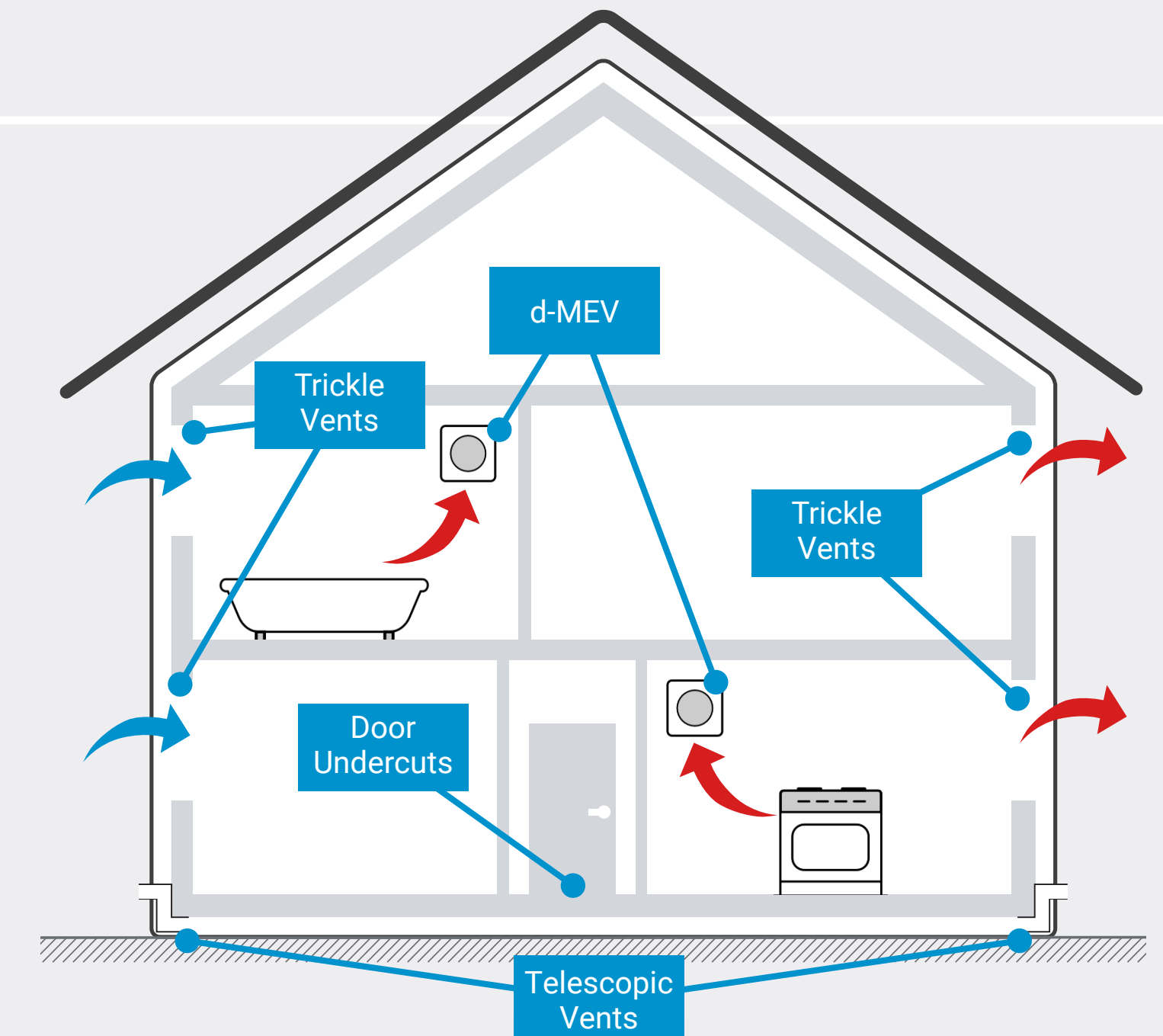
Ventilation Strategy

How it works

A home should 'breathe'. Fresh air enters the home to replace indoor air (filled with water vapour and environmental pollutants). Ventilation systems can range from expensive mechanical solutions to simply opening windows. Good ventilation reduces damp and mould risk from activities like cooking, bathing, drying clothes – even breathing.

We included the following measures:

- **Telescopic vents** below floorboards to prevent damp settling on floor joists
- **Trickle vents** in windows and doors to allow for fresh air to enter the home
- **Door undercuts** (removing part of the bottom of internal doors) to improve airflow between internal spaces
- **Decentralised mechanical extract ventilation (d-MEV)** systems installed in the kitchen, toilet, and main bathroom. These run constantly to create a continuous flow of fresh air in, and old air out of, the home.¹



Our experience

With careful planning of the sequence of works, we accessed the subfloor space whilst the flooring was already up. We asked the contractors to make good any old brick hole spaces no longer in use, and to blend in the external render finish around the new telescopic vents. We painted over the render for a cleaner finish.

Benefits

- Improved air quality which can lead to better health outcomes
- Reduced risk of damp and mould build up in the home

Installation

It's easier to install telescopic vents (vents that transfer outside air to the subfloor void under floorboards) at the same time as the pipework replacement for the heat pump system. The subfloor space is more easily accessible. Also, trickle vents should be kept open at all times, as heat loss is minimal.

Before and after

Heat lost through poor airtightness, before the retrofit, accounted for about 8% of overall heat loss. With these new ventilation measures to move air into and out of the building, air leakage from poor airtightness was reduced by 47%.

¹ Decentralised Mechanical Extract Fans, Manufacturer: EnviroVent, Type: ECO dMEV+, 2-year warranty