

# **Kitchen Ventilation Should be High Performance (not Optional)**

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# Acknowledgements

## PROGRAM SUPPORT

- **U.S. Department of Energy – Building America Program**
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Indoor Environments Division
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development – Office of Healthy Homes & Lead Hazard Control
- California Energy Commission – Public Interest Energy Research Program

## TECHNICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

- Woody Delp, Tosh Hotchi, Melissa Lunden, Nasim Mullen, Chris Stratton, Doug Sullivan, Iain Walker

# Kitchen Ventilation Simplified

## PROBLEM:

- Cooking burners & cooking produce odors, moisture and pollutants

## SOLUTION:

- Install and use extra exhaust ventilation in kitchen

## OPTIMAL SOLUTION:

- Effective, low-energy and quiet range hoods that operate automatically as needed

# What do we want from our range hoods?

- Remove smoke as needed
- Enhance kitchen aesthetics
- Remove odors & moisture
- Affordable
  
- Remove pollutants from burners and cooking
- Quiet, low-power operation
- Automatic operation



# What do we NOT want?

- Fire
- Noise
- Maintenance
- Bad aesthetics
- Higher energy bills
- Depressurization-induced backdrafting of natural draft appliances



# Pollutants from burners and cooking

- Gas burners
  - Moisture & CO<sub>2</sub>
  - NO<sub>2</sub> and formaldehyde
  - Ultrafine particles & CO



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Experimental Evaluation of Pollutant  
Emissions From Residential Appliances  
Singer et al., LBNL-2897E

- Electric elements
  - Ultrafine particles

Dennekamp, Occup Environ Med  
2001; 58:511–516

- Cooking
  - Ultrafine and fine particles
  - VOCs including acrolein
  - Moisture and odors



ERNEST ORLANDO LAWRENCE  
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Compilation of PM<sub>2.5</sub> Emission Rates for  
Cooking and Candles...  
Hu et al., LBNL-5890E

# The pollutant thing is a serious issue!

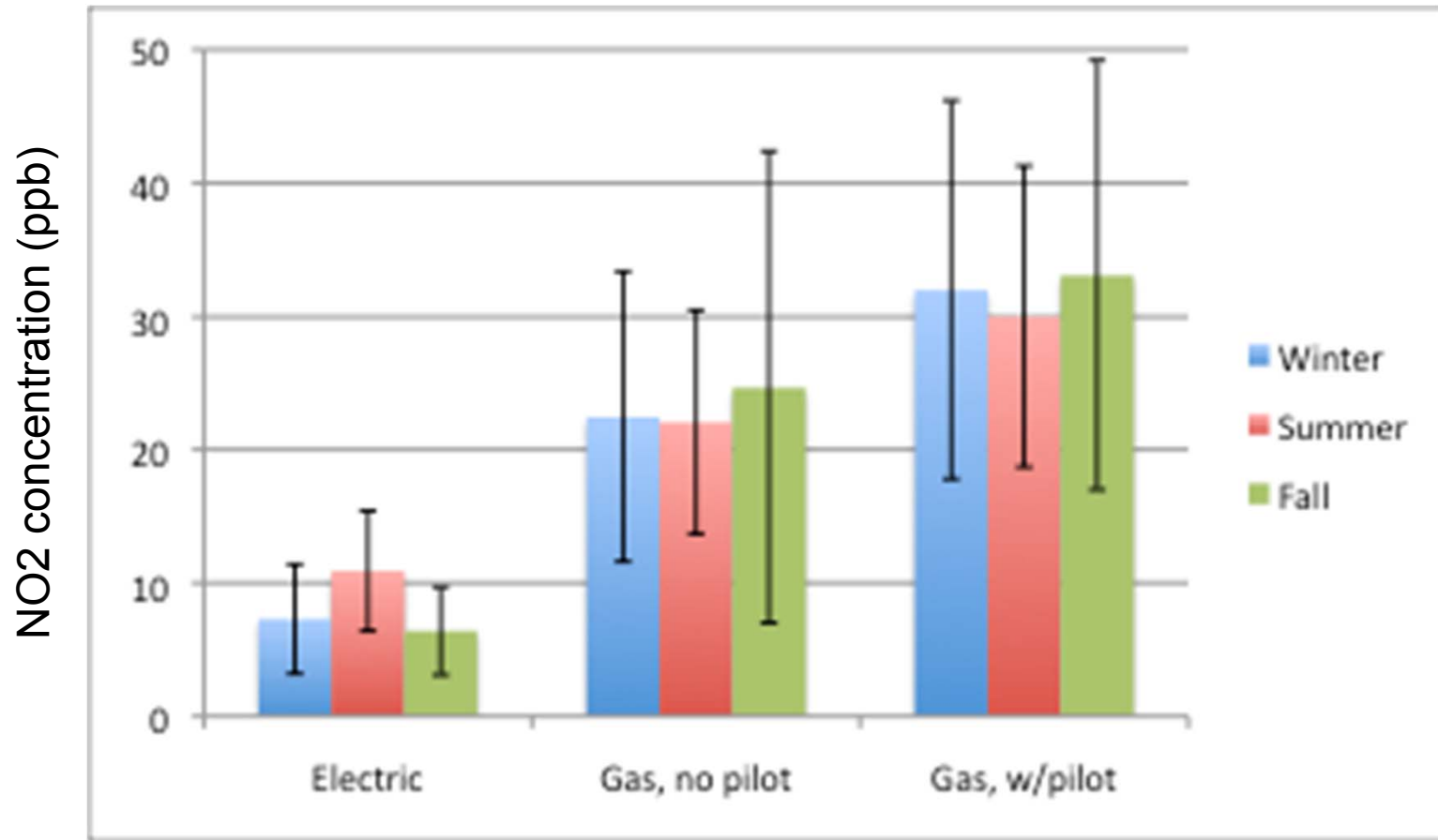
**Cooking burners backdraft and spill 100% of the time!**

Among homes that cook with gas & don't use range hood\*:

- 55-70% exceed NO<sub>2</sub> 1-h standards
- 27% exceed formaldehyde 1-h guidelines
- 8% exceed CO 1-h and 8-h standards

\*Results of a physics-based simulation model applied to a representative sample of Southern California households. Details in manuscript submitted to Environmental Health Perspectives by Logue et al.

# Higher NO<sub>2</sub> in homes with gas cooking MEASUREMENTS



Lee et al., JA&WMA 1998, 517 homes total; 417 homes all 3 seasons

EPA annual standard is 53 ppb



# Range hoods can help!

Under cabinet



Microwave



Chimney



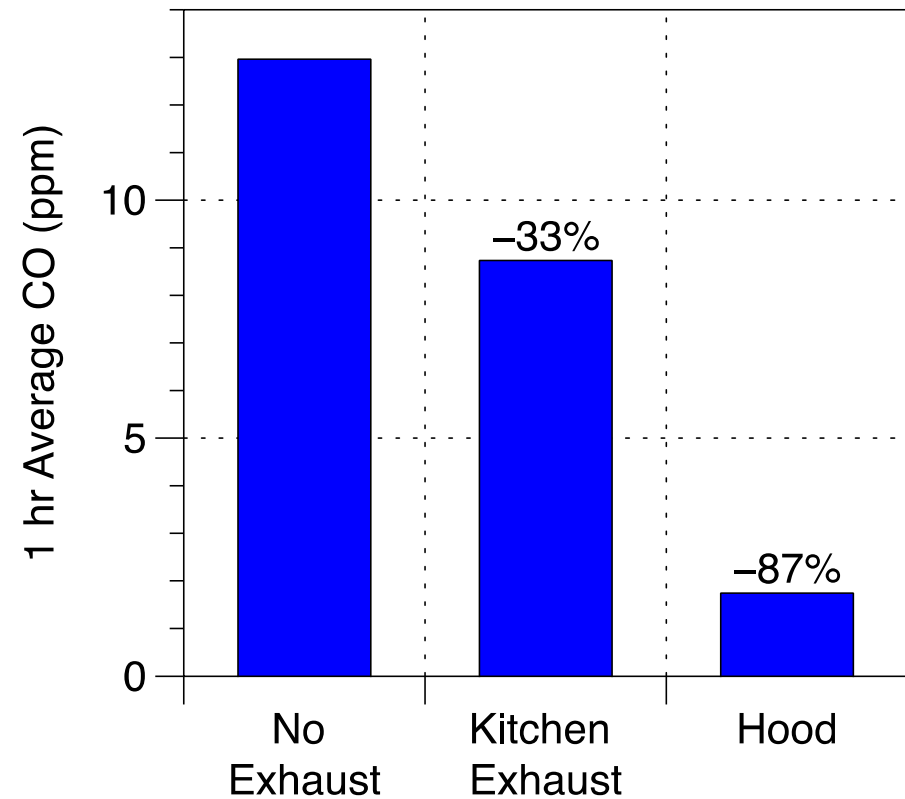
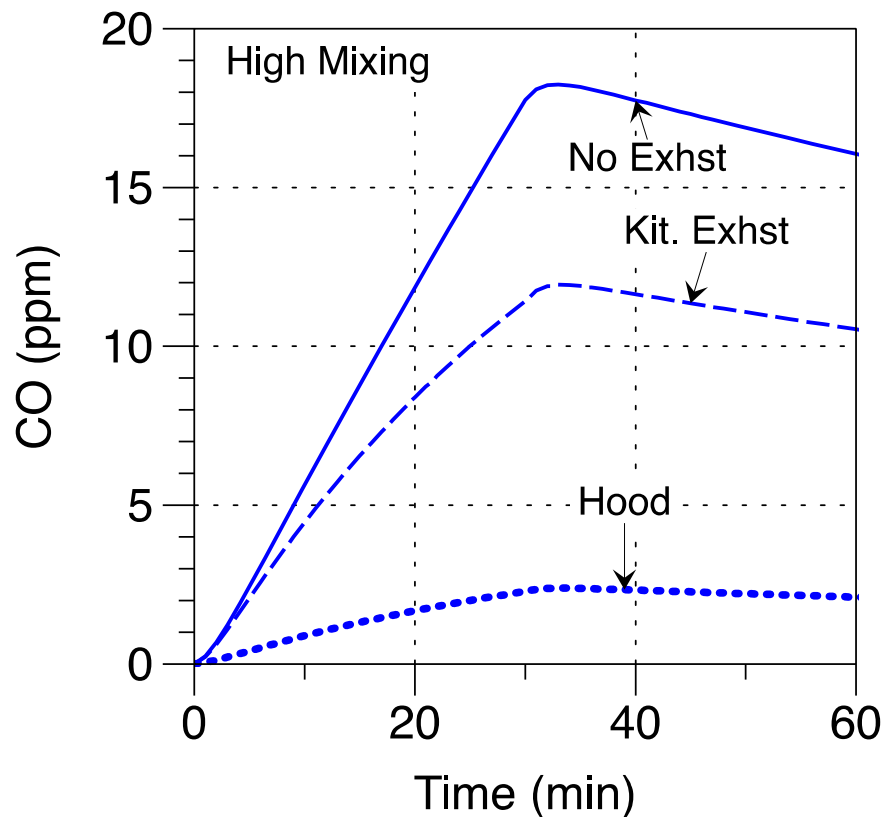
Downdraft\*



# Range hoods better than general kitchen

200 cfm range hood or kitchen exhaust (simulations)

CO concentration throughout the **home**: **OPEN FLOOR PLAN**



# Current performance standards



100 cfm range hood or 5 kitchen ach  
 $\leq 3$  sones



Guidelines (30" range)

- Minimum 40 cfm / ft = 100 cfm
- Recommend 100 cfm / ft = 250 cfm

Ratings

- Airflow at 0.1" static P
- Sound (sone)



$\geq 2.8$  cfm / W  
 $\leq 2$  sone  
< 500 cfm

# What's missing?

- CAPTURE EFFICIENCY
  - Fraction of emitted pollutants removed by hood
  - May differ for burner and cooking

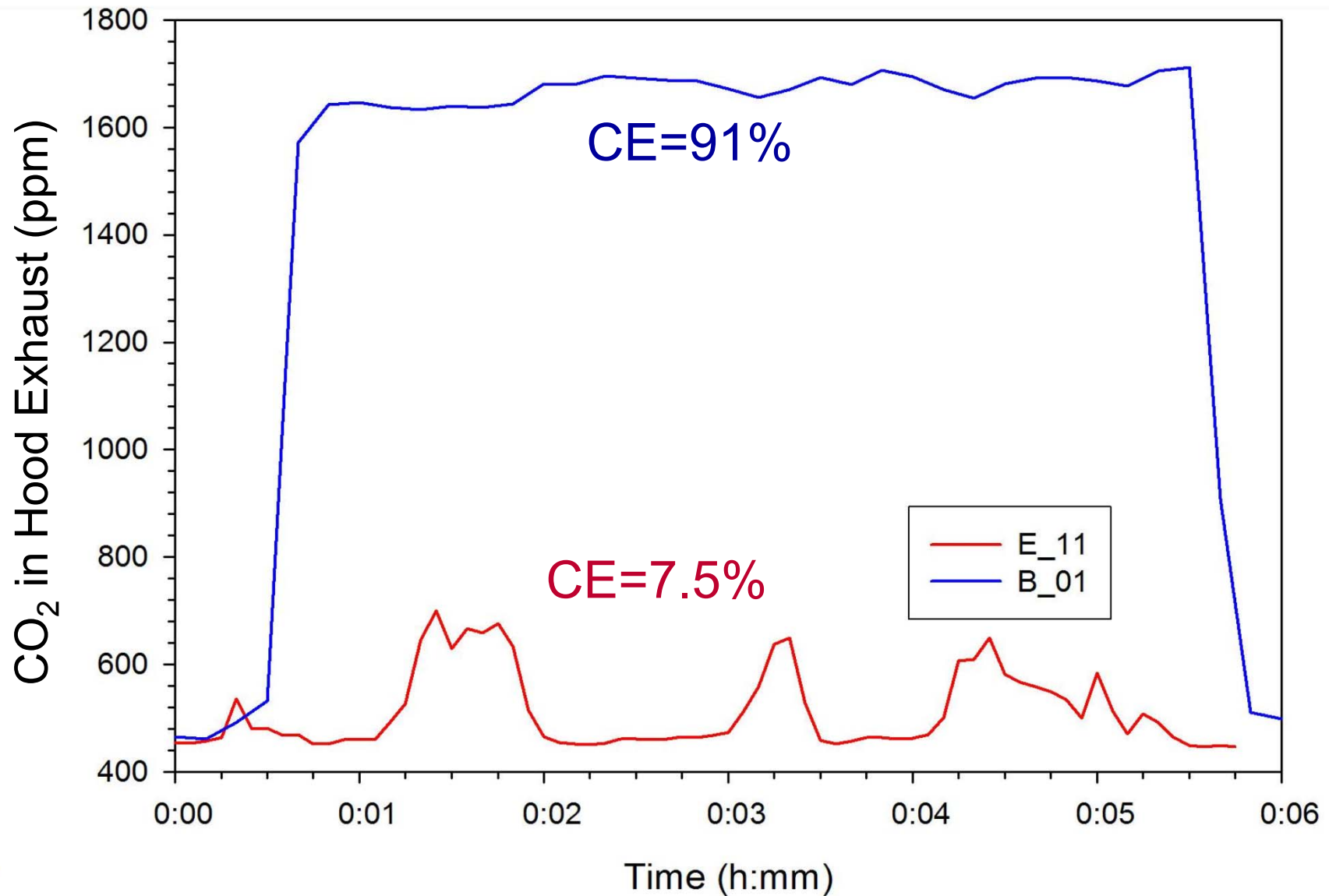


# Measure capture efficiency using CO<sub>2</sub>

- Emission rate based on fuel CH<sub>4</sub> → CO<sub>2</sub>
- Measure concentration in hood exhaust and room
- Separately measure flow in hood exhaust

$$CE = \frac{\textit{removal}}{\textit{production}} = \frac{Q_{air} (CO_{2-hood} - CO_{2-room})}{Q_{fuel} (C \textit{ in fuel})}$$

# Measure capture efficiency using CO<sub>2</sub>



# Range Hood Performance Evaluation

## Laboratory

- Selected sample
- New, no wear
- Standard height(s)
- Control, vary pressure
- Measure airflow vs. system pressure
- Measure CE vs. flow
- Sound pressure (dB)
- Power (W)

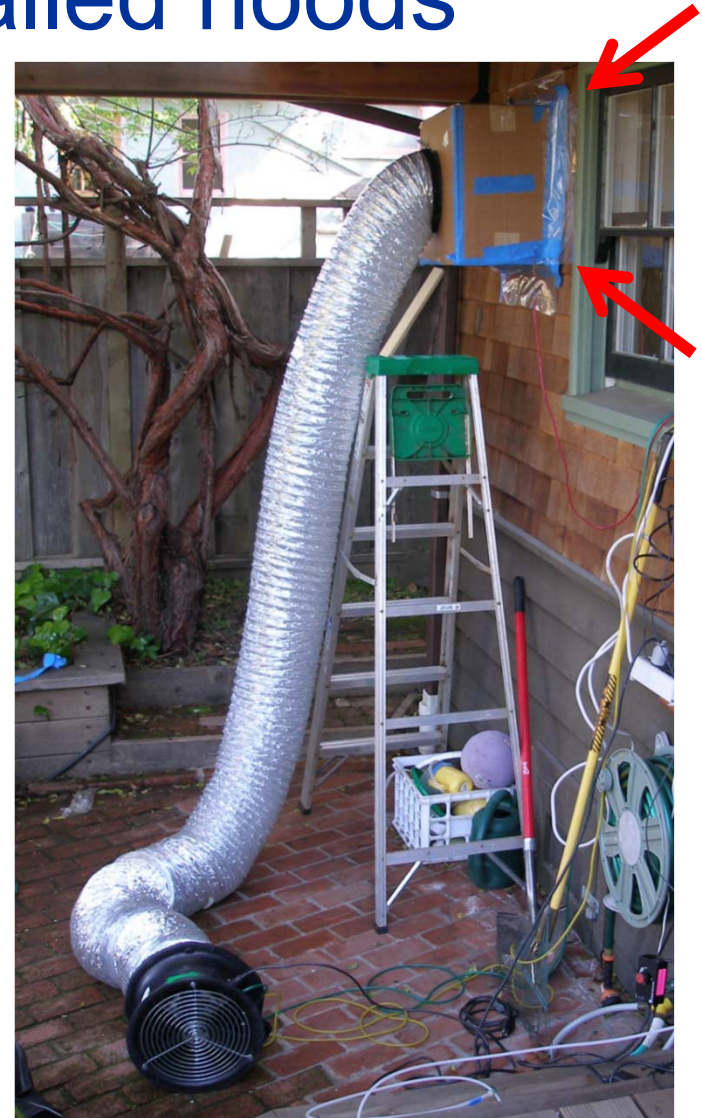
## In home

- Opportunity sample
- Used, uncertain wear
- As installed height and system pressure
- Measure airflow and CE at each setting
- Sound pressure (dB)

# Measuring airflow of installed hoods



Routine set-up

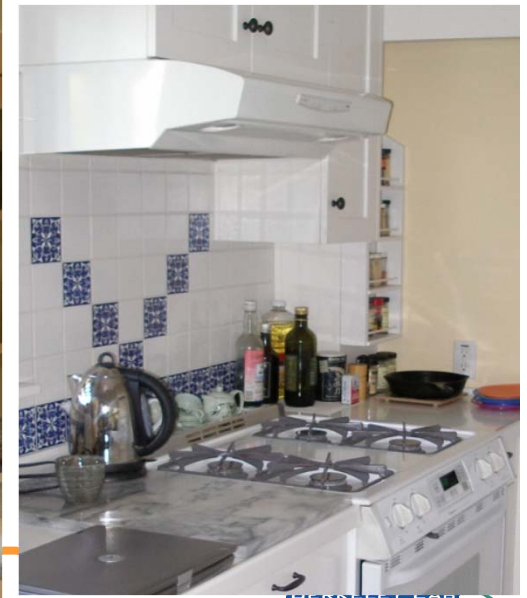


Special set-up

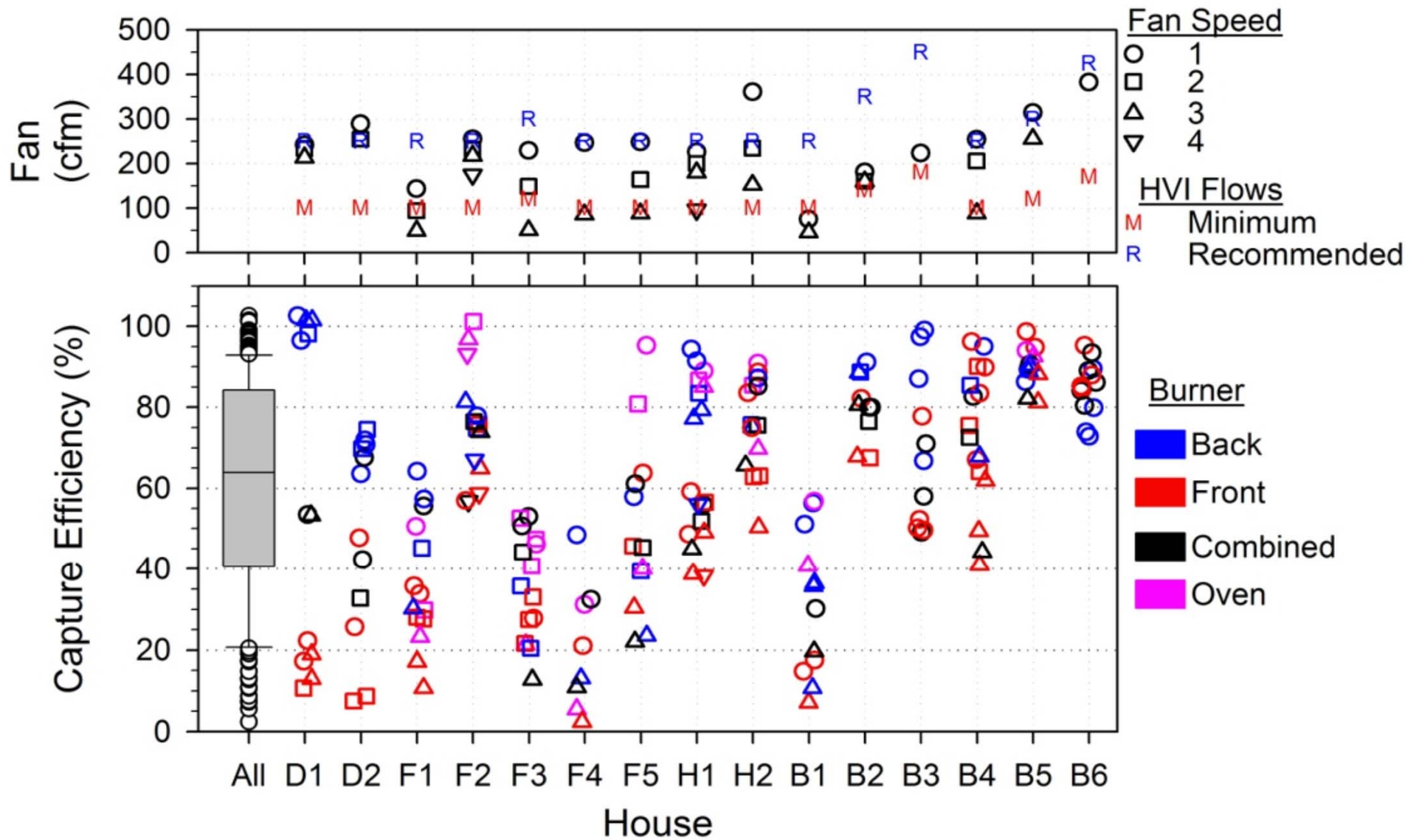


# In-Home Performance Study

- 15 devices
  - 2 downdraft
  - 2 microwaves
  - 3 no-hood hoods
  - 2 hybrid
  - 6 open
- Cooktops
  - Pots with water
  - Front, back, diagonal
- Ovens
  - 425 F, door closed
  - Cool between tests



# In-Home Performance Results



# Laboratory Performance Study

- 7 devices

L1: Low-cost hood, \$40

B1: Basic, quiet hood, \$150

A1: 62.2-compliant, \$250

E1: Energy Star, \$300

E2: Energy Star, \$350

M1: Microwave, \$350

P1: Performance, \$650

## Measurements:

- Fan curves (flow vs. P)
- CE for varied flows
  - Vary duct P, fan setting
- Power and efficacy

# Lab Performance Study



A: Microwave



B: Shallow capture hood

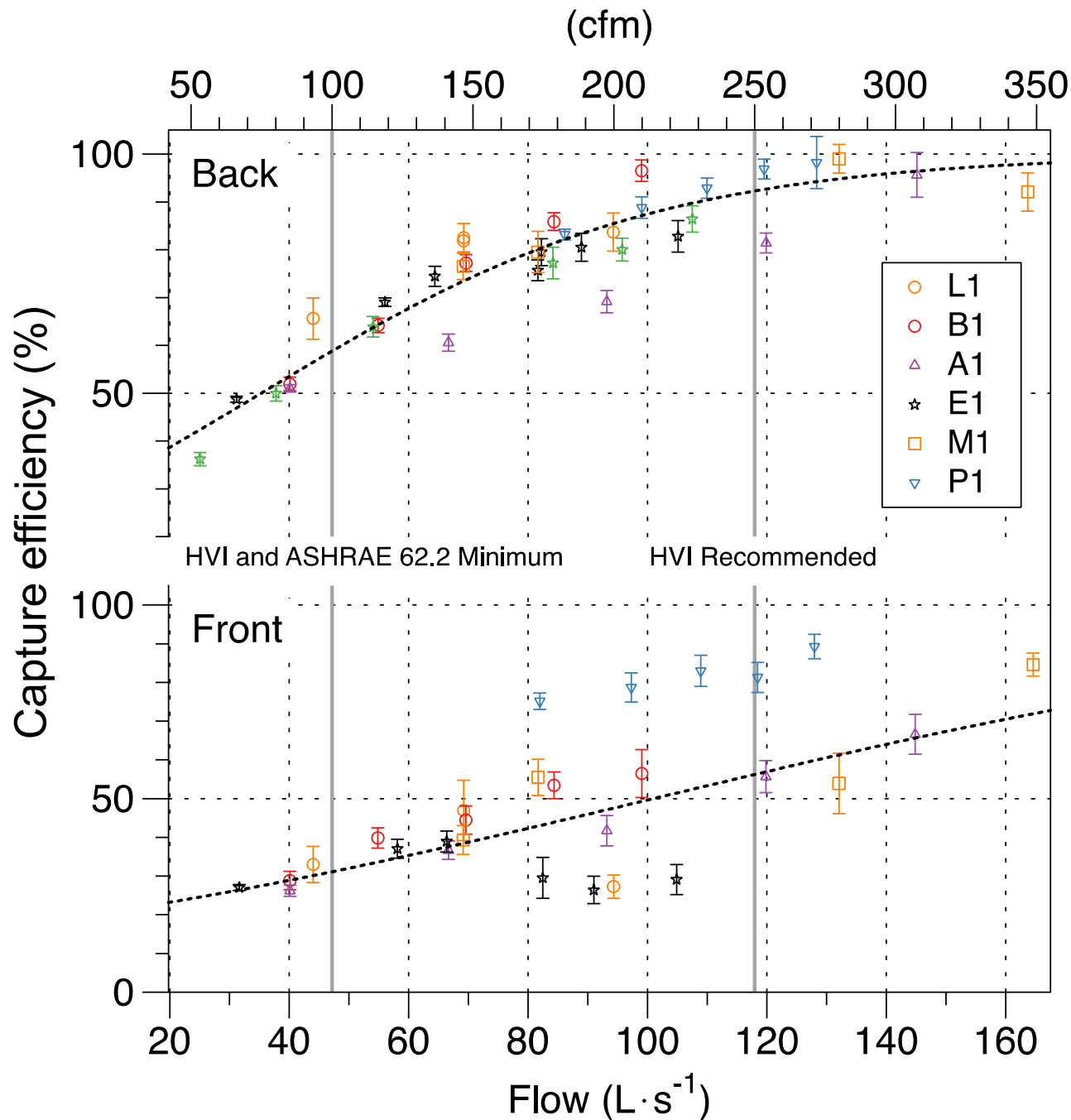


C: Deep hood; grease collection on plate, no screens.



D: Energy Star: no hood

# Capture Efficiency Results



- 100 cfm  
60% back  
30% oven, front
- 200 cfm  
>80% back  
40-80% oven  
25-80% front

# What we have learned about performance

- Installed airflows often below advertised
- Capture efficiency varies from terrible to great
- Sensitivity to duct pressure also varies
- Capture much better for burners under hood
- Roughly 200 cfm needed for >80% capture
- Reducing airflow better than fan efficacy for energy
- Automatic devices available, some are promising
- **USE BACK BURNERS**

# What we still need to figure out...

- How does capture efficiency for cooking related pollutants relate to capture of burner exhaust?
  - How does this vary by hood design & downdraft?
- What are installed system pressures? Should tests for airflow and capture ratings use higher duct static P?
- How to provide effective ventilation in retrofits
  - Is there a role for better engineered recirculating hoods, perhaps linked with other ventilation?

# Some parting thoughts....

- Many US homes current don't have venting range hoods
  - Varies by building era, type and region of U.S.
- Many of the installed hoods are ineffective
- A minority of households use kitchen ventilation routinely
  - 25-40% of survey volunteers in CA (likely high)
- Do we need to require automatic operation?
  - Are we satisfied with leaving it to the user?
  - Will quieter products and education lead to more frequent use?



# Questions?

Contact info and resources:

[bcsinger@lbl.gov](mailto:bcsinger@lbl.gov)

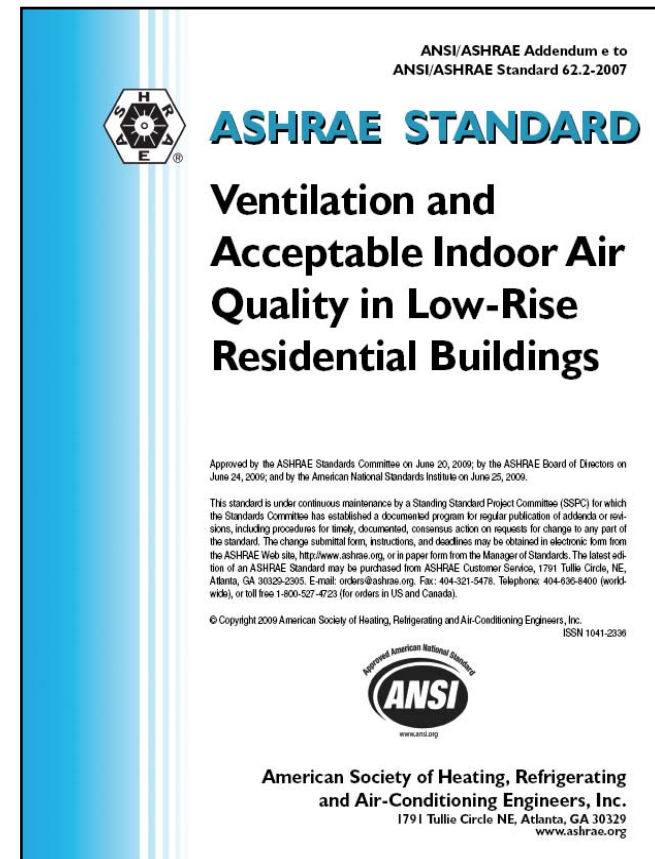
[homes.lbl.gov/publications](http://homes.lbl.gov/publications)

# Extra Slides

- The following slides are included for potential use in Q&A

# ASHRAE 62.2 standard for residential IAQ

“ . . . air toward which a substantial majority of occupants express no dissatisfaction with respect to odor and sensory irritation and in which there are not likely to be contaminants at concentrations that are known to pose a health risk.”



# Ventilation characteristics

General  
or  
Local

Passive  
or  
Mechanical

Manual  
or  
Automatic

Continuous  
or  
Intermittent

# Combustion appliance hazards depend on several factors

- Fraction of exhaust entering home
- Pollutant concentration in exhaust (emission rate)
- Burner size & frequency of use
- Proximity to people

# Cooking without ventilation

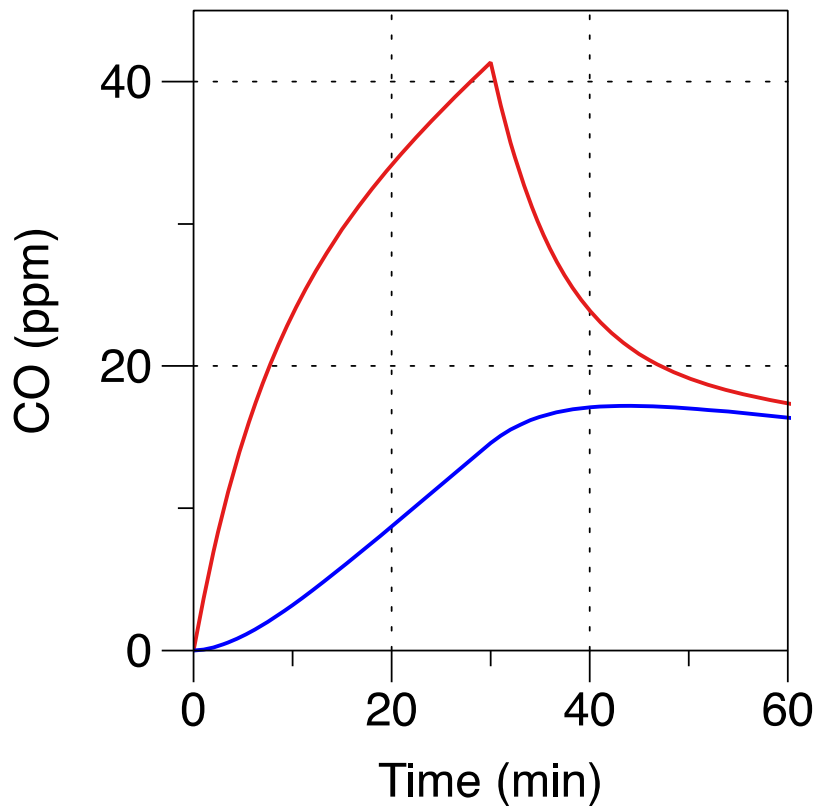
Simulate 1200 ft<sup>2</sup> house, 200 ft<sup>2</sup> kitchen



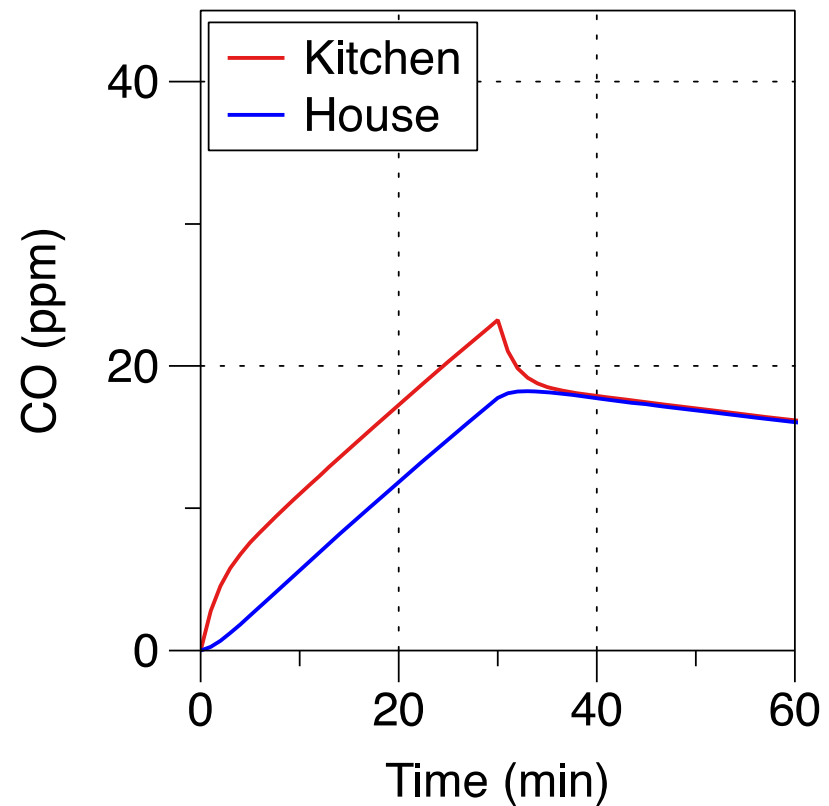
15,000 btu/h

800 ng/J CO

### Separate kitchen




### Open floor plan

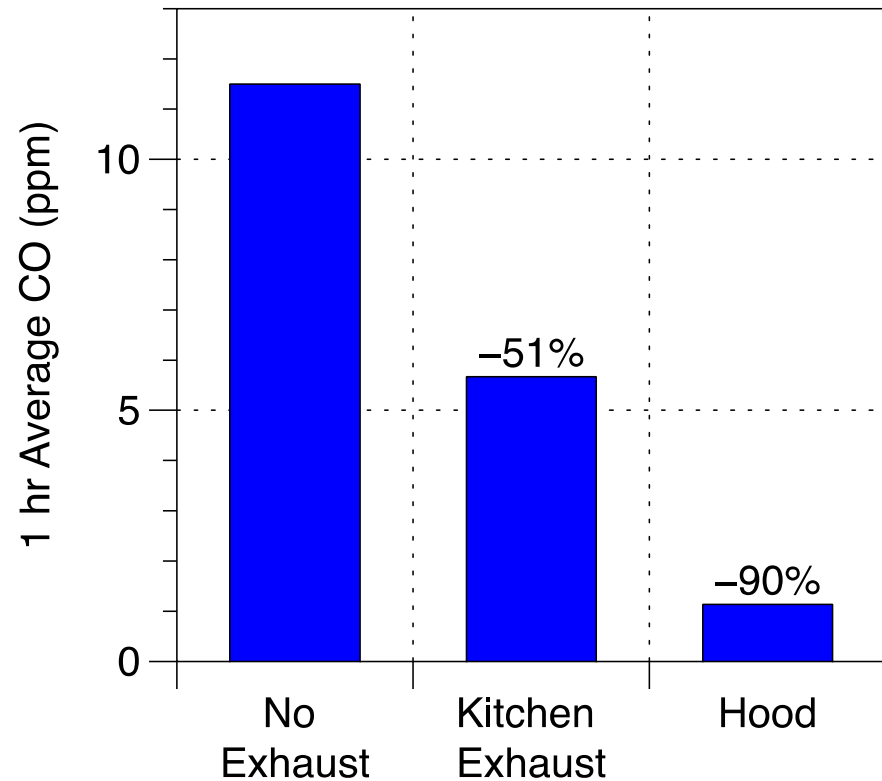
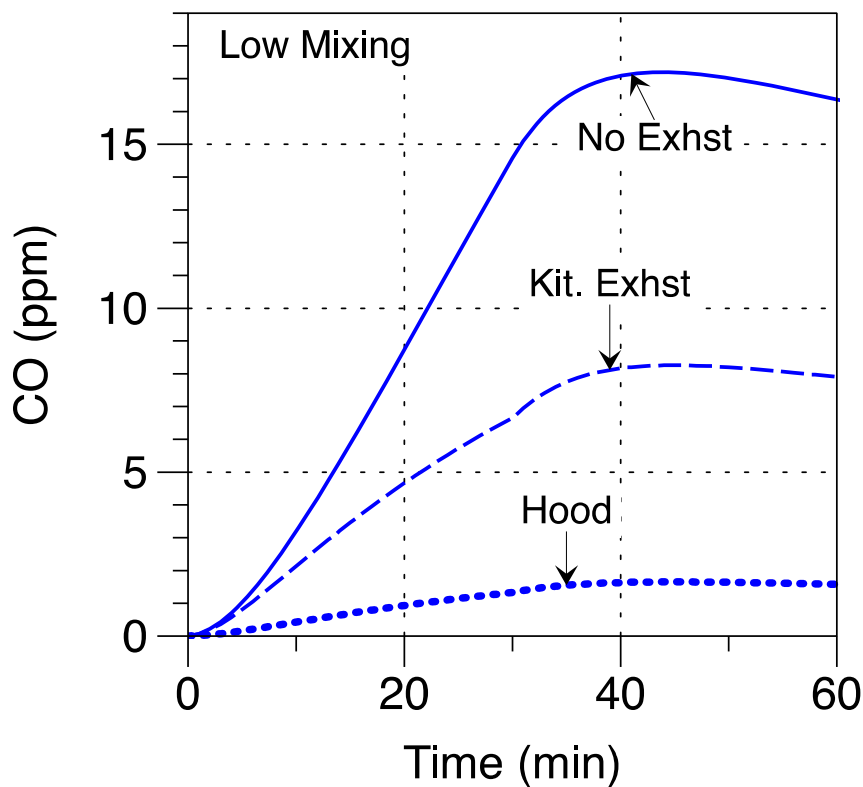


# Impact of ventilation

200 cfm range hood or kitchen exhaust


 15,000 btu/h  
800 ng/J CO

CO concentration throughout the **home**: **SEPARATE KITCHEN**

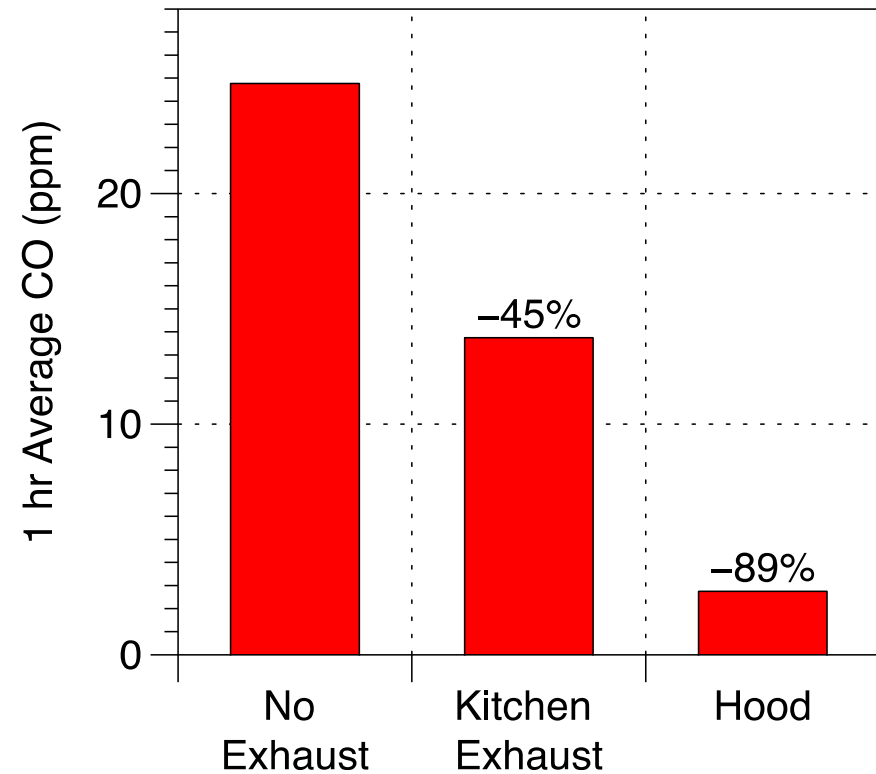
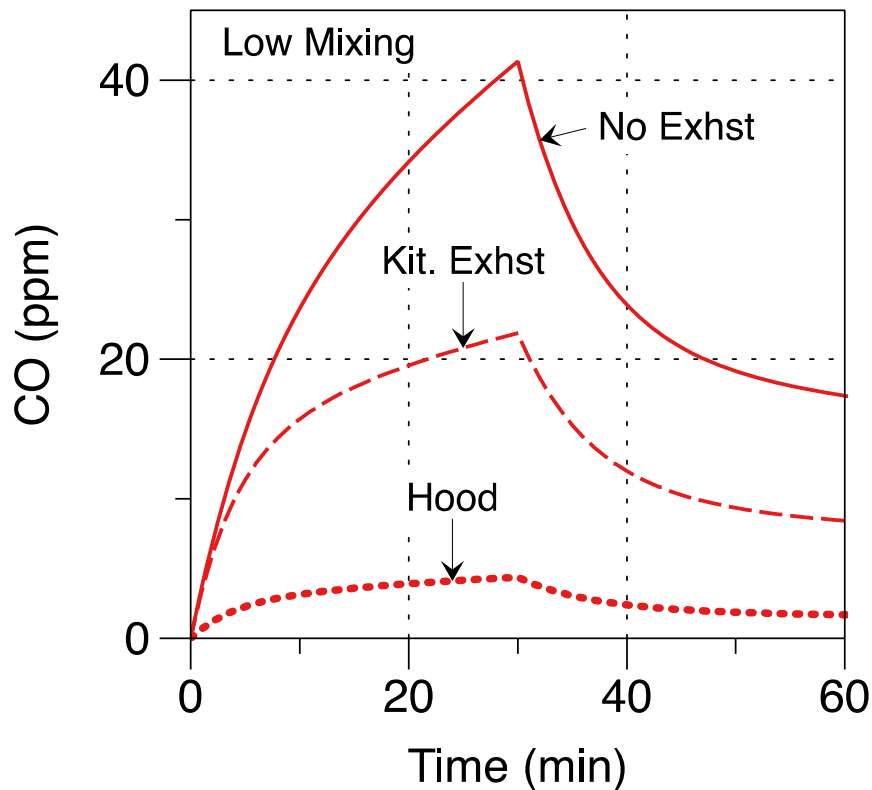


# Impact of ventilation

200 cfm range hood or kitchen exhaust

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## CO concentration in the **SEPARATE KITCHEN**



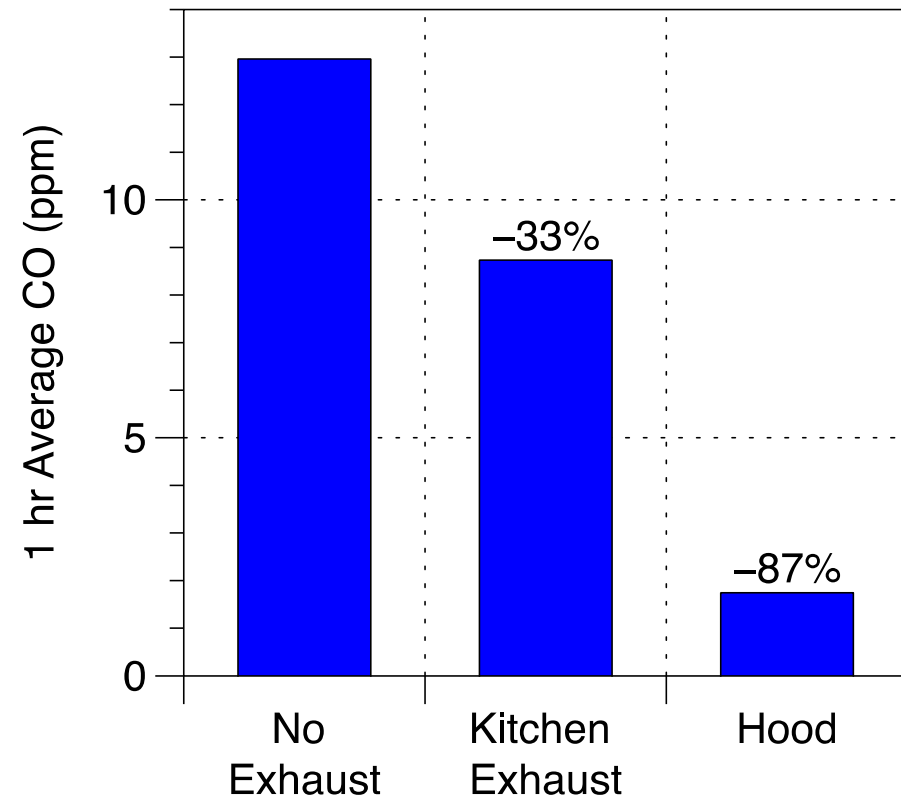
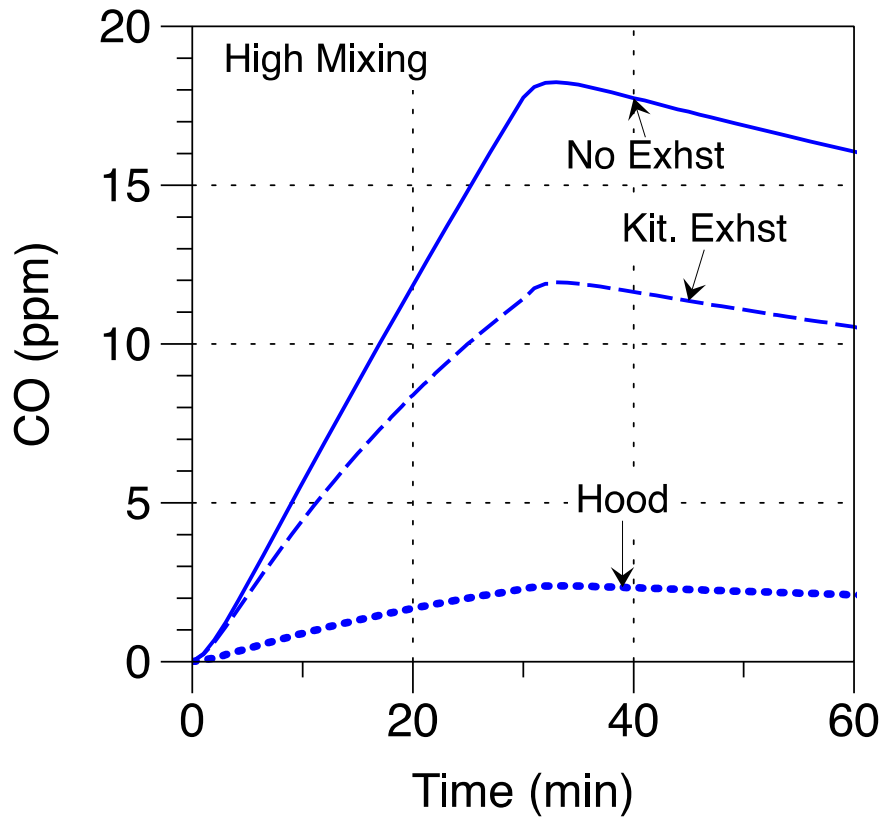


# Impact of ventilation

200 cfm range hood or kitchen exhaust

 15,000 btu/h  
800 ng/J CO

CO concentration throughout the **home**: **OPEN FLOOR PLAN**



# IAQ hazards from gas appliances



Exhaust into home	Always	Always, less w/range hood		Cracked H.E. or Backdraft	Backdraft
Carbon monoxide	Relatively common	Relatively common		Uncommon	Uncommon
Nitrogen dioxide	Common	Common		Not enough data	Rare
Particulate matter	Rare	Rare		Rare	Extremely rare
Burner kbtu/h	10-40	5-30		10-50	30-100
Use	Hours each day	5-40 min, 1-3x daily		Hours each day	5-30 min, hours daily
Proximity	Usually close	Usually close		Usually close	Varies